

BATH RUGBY

VS SARACENS

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP

SAT SEPTEMBER 30TH 2000

KICK OFF 2.15^{PM}



MATCH SPONSORS



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THE teams



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Official Bath Rugby equipment supplier



Matt Perry

Iain Balshaw

Kevin Maggs

Mike Tindall

Adedayo Adebayo

Shaun Berne

Gareth Cooper

David Barnes

Mark Regan

John Mallett

Martin Haag

Steve Borthwick

Gavin Thomas

Ben Clarke (c)

Dan Lyle

(15) Full Back

(14) Wing

(13) Centre

(12) Centre

(11) Wing

(10) Fly Half

(9) Scrum Half

(1) Prop

(2) Hooker

(3) Prop

(4) Lock

(5) Lock

(6) Flanker

(7) Flanker

(8) No.8

Thomas Castaignede

Darragh O'Mahony

Ben Johnston

Kevin Sorrell

Dan Luger

Duncan McRea

Kyran Bracken (c)

David Flatman

Robbie Russell

Paul Wallace

Danny Grewcock

Bill Davidson

Richard Hill

Kris Chesney

Tony Diprose

replacements

Jon Preston

Andy Long

Simon Emms

Rob Thirlby

Phil de Glanville

Angus Gardiner

Nathan Thomas

(16)

(17)

(18)

(19)

(20)

(21)

(22)

Matt Cairns

Gerald Arasa

Scott Murray

Tony Roques

Sean Phillips

Nick Walshe

Brett Sparg

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Today's officials - REFEREE Ed Morrison (RFU) - TOUCH JUDGES John Barnard (RFU) & Mike Hamlin (RFU).

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VISITORS Saracens

URSTING WITH THE CREAM OF BRITISH AND
TALENT, SARACENS, BLISTERING PERFORMANCES
EADY ESTABLISHED THEM AS THE TEAM TO
THE ZURICH PREMIERSHIP.

top of the Premiership, Francois Pienaar's side
resemblance to the inconsistent and directionless
only finished fourth last season due to a late run of
Gone is centre, Jeremy Thompson, fly-halves
acroix and Matt Leck and full back Mark Mapletoft.
mself has hung up his boots to concentrate on his
is Chief Executive and will certainly demand more
e that has the talent to win titles.

ng two key stars of the world stage to Vicarage
naar has possibly made the two outstanding
of the summer. Wallaby hero Tim Horan will
be the main crowd puller, with the 30-year-old
over 80 caps of experience and two World Cup
medals to London with him. It is a continuation of
profile signing strategy that Saracens have adopted
el Wray took control of the club, following the
lla, Lynah and Piennar. Horan's presence once back
ry will provide a cutting-edge to a back line that
rately underachieved in the past two seasons.

However, one man who has already left his trail-blazing
mark on the Premiership this season is little Frenchman
Thomas Castaignede. The full back has settled into his new
home with effortless ease and has been the catalyst behind
Saracens' excellent start to the season. Still only 22, the
former Castres-Olympique star is probably the most gifted
back in Northern Hemisphere rugby.

This season has seen the welcome return of two key players
for Sarries. Dan Luger and Kyran Bracken are both fit, fresh
and raring to go following lengthy spells sidelined with
injury. For Bracken, the man in possession of the England
number 9 shirt, it is crucial as Captain that he can
remain injury free.

The Saracens' pack has also been playing with confidence.
Capped on England's summer tour to South Africa, Julian
White and David Flatman have made an excellent start to
the season and with Grewcock, Murray, Hill and Diprose
behind them, Saracens possess a formidable scrum.

If the forwards can win good ball which has not been the
case in recent seasons, the mouth watering prospect of seeing
a stylish Saracens back line wipe the floor with the
opposition looks a distinct possibility.



SARACENS SQUAD SEASON 2000 / 01



PLAYER focus

AT JUST 21 YEARS OF AGE
BEN JOHNSTON IS ALREADY
BEING TIPPED AS A FUTURE
ENGLAND INTERNATIONAL.

A strong, gritty centre with plenty
of pace, Ben's sharp and direct
running as a line breaker is a
priceless asset in a game that is
being dominated more often by
defences. Ben signed for Saracens
from Waterloo in 1998, but his
first team appearances were
restricted by the presence of
Jeremy Thompson and Steve
Ravenscroft in the Saracens' centre.
However a shoulder injury to the
South African Thompson, opened
the door for the youngster and he
has not looked back since.

After establishing a first team
place at the London club, Ben had
a superb season with England A.
The taste of international rugby
seemed to give the youngster new
incentive as he was instrumental in
Saracens' run of excellent results at
the end of last season. So
impressive were his performances
for the Vicarage Road side that
Ben was drafted into Clive
Woodward's 41-man squad for the
summer tour of South Africa
where he excelled on the hard
grounds. By the end of the tour
Ben was seriously challenging
Mike Tindall and Mike Catt for
a test place.

The presence of Thomas
Castaignede and double World
Cup winner Tim Horan at Saracens
will bring out the best in the
centre as he will draw from the
experience of the Australian and
the inventiveness of the French
full back. If Ben continues to
show the form reached over the
last six months he should be in
contention for a test place come
England's autumn internationals.

BEN
Johnston