## BATH RUGBY

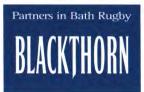
**YS CASTRES-OLYMPIQUE** 

HEINEKEN CUP ROUND ONE SATURDAY OCTOBER 7<sup>TI</sup> 2000 KICK OFF 6.05<sup>PM</sup>









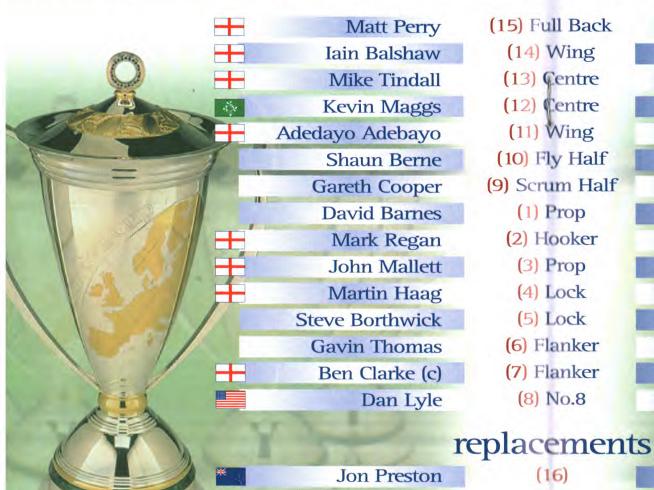


## teams









François Plisson Marc Biboulet Galliaume Delmotte Eric Artiguste Philippe Garrigues **Gregor Townsend** Frederick Seguier Laurent Toussaint Remy Vigneaux Levan Tsabadze Thierry Bourdet Jeremy Davidson (c) **Arnaud Costes** Jose Daiz Ismaila Lassissi Mauricio Reggiardo









Andy Long

**Rob Thirlby** 

Chris Horsman

Phil de Glanville

(16)(17)

(18)

Ghislian Benazet

Christian Batut

Frederic Laluque Guillaume Taussac

Adam Larkin

Norm Berryman

(22)



## Castres-Olympique

THE THE RUGBY HOT BED IN THE HEART OF TH WEST FRANCE, CASTRES-OLYMPIQUE WERE ONE HE GIANTS OF POST- WAR FRENCH RUGBY.

lub achieved back to back titles in the late 1940's.

ever, since those glory days success has been thin on the
and as Castres-Olympique have struggled in the shadow
se neighbours Toulouse. The only success of recent
awas in 1993 when the club won the French
pionship for the third time, defeating Grenoble in
nal.

es-Olympiques' history in the Heineken cup has also indifferent. In the competition's inaugural year of 1996, took part in the cup, but failed to qualify for the wing season's competition. Participation for the past seasons has been in the Shield where they have reached inal on two occasions. The most recent being last season they were beaten 34-21 by Pau in an rench final.

Scotland and Lions player Gregor Townsend

This season is a completely different prospect for Jaques Cauquil's side. The team that qualified for this season's competition having won Pool two of France's Premier division has significantly strengthened. They now possess a squad capable of competing with the best in Europe. Their chances in this years competition will depend heavily on the form of international fly half Gregor Townsend. At his best a mercurial match winner, the Scotland and Lions player is a more than adequate replacement for Thomas Castaignede. It is the third season of French rugby for Townsend having previously spent two seasons with 1997 Heineken Cup winners Brive.

Another face familiar to British Rugby fans is Irish lock Jeremy Davidson. The British Lion captains Castres-Olympique and will add a powerful presence in the lineout. Also bolstering the forwards is former French captain and powerful scrummager, Rapheal Ibanez. The aggressive hooker was injured in the opening match of the season against Biarritz and could be a doubt this afternoon.

Former France international Ugo Mola will add an attacking dimension from full back. Capped 12 times, Ugo turned down a move to Bristol to continue with Castres-Olympique this season. Like most French full backs Ugo will be looking for the counter attack from the back. This is the area where Castres are at their most dangerous as in open play they tend to run the ball from anywhere on the park and Jeremy Davidson will be hoping that the traditionally French ploy will be able to break even the most resilient of defences.

In a tough pool, The French side will certainly figure strongly. They have already made a 100% start to the French championship season recording victories over Biarritz and Perpignan and should not be under estimated.

Castres Olympique may not be favourites to finish top of Pool four, but they certainly possess the talent and capability to cause a few upsets along the way.

