

BATH RUGBY

VS ROTHERHAM

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP

SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

KICK OFF 2.15PM



MATCH SPONSORS












BLACKTHORN





THE teams



- Tom Voyce
- Rob Thirlby
-  Kevin Maggs
-  Jeremy Guscott
-  Adedayo Adebayo
- Shaun Berne
-  Jon Preston
- David Barnes
-  Andy Long
-  John Mallett
-  Martin Haag
- Mark Gabey
- Angus Gardiner
-  Ben Clarke (c)
-  Nathan Thomas

- (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

- Mike Umaga 
- Nigel Simpson
- Carlos Hassan 
- Andy Northey
- Martin Dawson
- Luke Smith
- Dave Scully
- Jim Thorp
- Terry Garnett
- Stuart Turner
- Chris Murphey
- Glen Kenworthy
- Mike Schmid (c) 
- Neil Spence
- Issac Feau'nati 

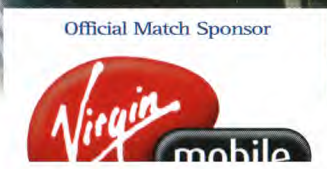


replacements

- TBC
- TBC
- TBC
- TBC
- TBC
- TBC
- TBC

- (16)
- (17)
- (18)
- (19)
- (20)
- (21)
- (22)

- Charlie Harrison
- Jon Shepherd
- Simon Bunting
- Stuart Dixon
- Ben Wade
- Dan Cook
- Howard Parr





VISITORS Rotherham

IT HAS BEEN A TESTING START TO LIFE IN THE ZURICH PREMIERSHIP FOR ROTHERHAM.

Six months ago all seemed rosy for the Yorkshire club as they defeated Bedford in two tense play off matches to secure promotion to the top flight for the first time in the club's 77 year history.

Despite insistence from coach Jim Kilfoyle that the club would remain loyal to those who guided the club through the whole glorious 1999/2000 campaign some major signings were made to bolster the squad, in hope rather than expectation that Rotherham would survive in the Premiership beyond May 2001.

Powerful centre Andy Northey surprisingly switched from Northampton, whilst Samoan test number eight Issac Feau'ina'i made the trek north from London Irish. Former Falcons and England A winger Jim Naylor returned to union from a spell in league and Bath Rugby duo Nigel Simpson and Heineken Cup winner Russell Earnshaw also made the move.

Pre season promise soon turned to despair as Rotherham went their opening seven Zurich Premiership matches without a win, including a morale-sapping thumping at the hands of Saracens. Despite being resilient at home, Rotherham have thus far struggled to keep pace. Although a victory did eventually come on a remarkable afternoon at the

Madjeski Stadium, Rotherham remain firmly rooted to the bottom of the Premiership. To make matters worse, flanker Earnshaw broke his leg to complete a miserable 18 months for the former Bath Rugby star.

However it is not all doom and gloom for the Yorkshire club. The European Shield has been more fruitful. Impressive victories over Bridgend, Grenoble and Perpignan have left Rotherham top of their pool with a chance of qualifying for the Heineken Cup with a victory in the competition.

It will be interesting if this new found confidence in the Shield will affect the teams Premiership performances. The next few weeks will prove critical to the fortunes of the club. With many top teams missing key stars on International duty, Rotherham simply have to capitalise to keep the pressure on Bristol and NEC Harlequins above them.

The arrival on loan of 26-year-old Luke Smith, a globe-trotting South African has added impetus behind a solid scrum marshalled by club captain Mike Schmid. At scrum half Rotherham also possess Dave Scully, one of the most underrated players in the English game. The scrum half is a seasoned veteran of the England sevens circuit and was voted the Premiership two player of the season in 1999/2000. If Rotherham can turn their tremendous fighting spirit into points, they may just avoid a possible relegation play off.



Dave Scully in action