BATH RUGBY 18 65

VS
LEICESTER
TIGERS

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP

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SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2003
KICK-OFF 2.15pm

TODAY'S TEAMS

Bath			Leicester
MATT PERRY	(15) FULL BACK	GEORDAN MURPHY	
SIMON DANIELLI	(14) WING	TIM STIMPSON	
KEVIN MAGGS	(13) CENTRE	OLLIE SMITH	
MIKE TINDALL	(12) CENTRE	ROD KAFER	
OLLY BARKLEY	(11) WING	LEON LLOYD	
MIKE CATT	(10) FLY HALF	SAM VESTY	
GARETH COOPER	(9) SCRUM HALF	JAMIE HAMILTON	
DAVE BARNES	(1) PROP	GRAHAM ROWNTREE	
JONATHAN HUMPHREYS	(2) HOOKER	DORIAN WEST	
JOHN MALLETT	(3) PROP	FRANCK TOURNAIRE	
STEVE BORTHWICK	(4) LOCK	MARTIN JOHNSON (C)	
DANNY GREWCOCK (C)	(5) LOCK	BEN KAY	
ANDY BEATTIE	(6) FLANKER	LEWIS MOODY	
ADAM VANDER	(7) FLANKER	JOSH KRONFELD	
NATHAN THOMAS	(8) NO.8	MARTIN CORRY	

ANDY WILLIAMS	(16)	GEORGE CHUTER	
LEE MEARS	(17)	PERRY FRESHWATER	
ALESSIO GALASSO	(18)	DARREN GARFORTH	
TOM VOYCE	(19)	ADAM BALDING	
SPENCER DAVEY	(20)	NEIL BACK	
GAVIN THOMAS	(21)	TOM TIERNEY	
SIMON EMMS	(22)	STEVE BOOTH	

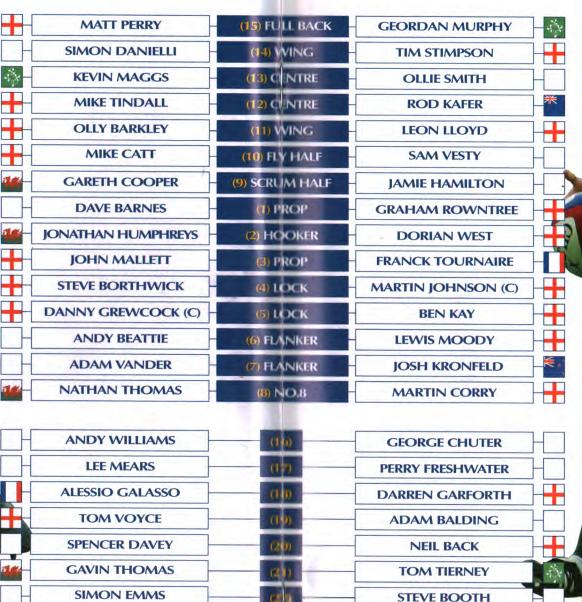## TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE DAVE PEARSON (RFU)

TOUCH JUDGES ANDY MELROSE AND
ERIC WOODMASON

Connections - Leicester Tigers

By Russell Gibbs

Links between Bath Rugby and Leicester Tigers are few and far between in the professional era, and when you consider that these two sides have vied for the major trophies for well over a decade, it's hardly a major surprise. Transferring from Bath Rugby to Leicester Tigers would not be too dissimilar to a professional football player going from Arsenal to Manchester United or from Glasgow Rangers to Glasgow Celtic. Occasionally it will happen, but you are rarely going to sell a player to one of your most bitter rivals. In the professional era, no fully fledged first-team squad member has played for both sides, but there are still connections between the two - one very unusual.

Promising Bath Rugby number 8 Tom Wheeler is the son of Leicester Tigers Chief Executive Peter Wheeler and has been making great strides in the Bath Under 21 line-up over the course of the last two seasons. Tom, who is studying at Bath University, was impressive in the matches he played last season and is hopeful of making it at the club. This year he will be looking to cement his place in the Under 21 line-up and hopefully push his way into the Bath United squad for one or two matches. Without doubt, with his robust style of play, Tom is definitely one for the future.

England Under 21 centre Alex Crockett made his first-team debut for the club in the 48-9 drubbing that Leicester Tigers handed out to Bath Rugby last September at Welford Road. Crockett, who had an exceptional Under 21 Six Nations tournament last season, scoring three tries in four games, came on as a second-half replacement for Sam Cox and acquitted himself well in a side that was on the back foot. Considering the team was down to 14 men at the time due to John Mallett's sending off, Alex's work in defence was doubled and it's to the eternal credit of not just the youngster but the whole team that they did not buckle in the face of concerted Tigers pressure.

Signed from the Bath Rugby Academy, Alex was schooled at the famous Colston's College in Bristol and was a member of their successful Daily Mail Schools Cup winning side. His promise was noted when he scored in six successive matches for the United XV last year in their truncated season, and he duly went on to make a total of nine appearances in the first XV, making four starts and five as a replacement. Alex also crossed for a brace of tries in the Adedayo Adebayo and Phil de Glanville testimonial match at the end of 2000/01 to put down his marker, and his stature has risen with every game since.

Another Academy player who came through the ranks and made his debut at Welford Road is Welsh international number 8 Andy Lloyd. Andy came on as a replacement late in the second half of a 43-25 defeat on the final day of the season in May 2000, a result that brought to an end Bath Rugby's 15-match winning run. The Tigers had been crowned champions and duly celebrated with a fine performance, capped by a hat-trick of tries from England flanker Neil Back. Andy consolidated his place in the first-team squad the following season, appearing in nine matches, although six of those were as a replacement. His tireless work at the base of the scrum caught the eye of the Welsh selectors, and at the end of the year he was chosen to go on the full Wales tour to Japan.

Andy made his international debut in the Kintetsu Hanazono Rugby Ground in Osaka, in a back row alongside club colleague Gavin Thomas and Geraint Lewis. Wales ripped the Japanese apart and Andy had the pleasure of crossing for a try on his debut in a 64-10 rout. Gavin Thomas also scored and Neath wing Shane Williams equalled the Welsh record of four tries in an international. The 2001/02 season was a disappointment for Andy, who managed just one substitute appearance as an injury to his back forced him to miss most of the campaign.

■ *Andy Lloyd - Welford Road Debut*