



VS
SARACENS



ZURICH PREMIERSHIP
SATURDAY 1 MARCH 2003
KICK-OFF 2.15pm

SPONSORS





TODAY'S TEAMS

BATH RUGBY

SARACENS



	MATT PERRY	(15) FULL BACK	THOMAS CASTAGNEDE	
	SIMON DANIELLI	(14) WING	RICHARD HAUGHTON	
	ALEX CROCKETT	(13) CENTRE	BEN JOHNSTON	
	MIKE TINDALL	(12) CENTRE	TIM HORAN	
	KEVIN MAGGS	(11) WING	DARRAGH O'MAHONY	
	CHRIS MALONE	(10) FLY HALF	ANDY GOODE	
	ANDY WILLIAMS	(9) SCRUM HALF	KYRAN BRACKEN (C)	
	DAVE BARNES	(1) PROP	CHRISTIAN CALIFANO	
	JONATHAN HUMPHREYS	(2) HOOKER	ROBBIE RUSSELL	
	JOHN MALLET	(3) PROP	JOHNNY MARSTERS	
	STEVE BORTHWICK	(4) LOCK	CRAIG YANDELL	
	DANNY GREWCOCK (C)	(5) LOCK	STUART HOOPER	
	ANDY BEATTIE	(6) FLANKER	KRIS CHESNEY	
	ADAM VANDER	(7) FLANKER	RICHARD HILL	
	NATHAN THOMAS	(8) NO. 8	BEN RUSSELL	
	ROSS BLAKE	(16)	MIKE STOREY	
	LEE MEARS	(17)	MATT CAIRNS	
	ALESSIO GALASSO	(18)	ABDEL BENZAZZI	
	OLLY BARKLEY	(19)	TONY ROQUES	
	ELVIS SEVEALI	(20)	DAN KIRTON	
	JAMES SCAYSBROOK	(21)	BRETT SPARG	
	ANDY LLOYD	(22)	ADRYAN WINNAN	



TODAY'S OFFICIALS
 REFEREE ASHLEY ROWDEN
 TOUCH JUDGES GERAINT ASHTON JONES
 AND ANDY MELROSE



Saracens

Dom Rumbles takes a look at a Saracens side looking to put distance between themselves and the battle to avoid relegation at the foot of the table

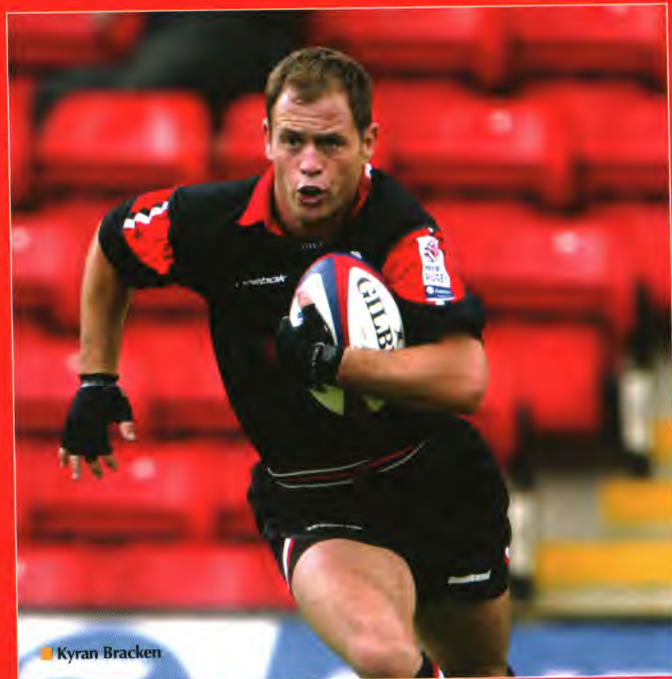


Saracens head into this match which takes on epic significance knowing that nothing other than a win will suffice if they are to stave off the lingering threat of relegation. Like it or not, the early-season pace-setters (they topped the table after the opening few rounds) have been hauled into the relegation dog fight after a season in which they have blown both hot and cold.

At their best Saracens can be a breathtaking side to watch. Anyone who made the trip to Vicarage Road earlier in the season to see the Zurich Premiership clash between the two clubs would verify that. They are a side capable of beating anyone on their day, and have recorded significant victories over Colomiers and Newcastle Falcons on

their way to the semi-finals of the Parker Pen Challenge Cup.

Sarries may well be without a number of key players this afternoon as suspensions and injuries take their toll, but Wayne Shelford will still be able to select from a strong squad that oozes international class. Kyran Bracken will return to club duty having served the mandatory three-week suspension after suffering from concussion and going on to play for England against Wales in the Six Nations Championship, whilst England stalwart Richard Hill, Thomas Castaignède and Christian Califano should also return from international duty for this crucial match. However, Saracens will be without Kevin Sorrell. The centre sustained a fractured skull during last month's defeat to Gloucester and is likely to be sidelined for at least another seven to eight weeks.



Kyran Bracken

Whilst wins in the Zurich Premiership have proven hard to come by this season, like Bath Rugby Wayne Shelford's side have enjoyed a successful run in the Parker Pen Challenge Cup. This afternoon's match is the first in a trilogy of games between the two sides - next month they meet in the semi-finals of the competition gunning for a place in next season's Heineken Cup - the prize that awaits the winner of the final, and a prize that both sides will be desperate to claim, given their respective standings in the Zurich Premiership. Therefore expect this afternoon's game to be a fiercely contested fact-finding mission. It certainly won't be a dress rehearsal, as Premiership points will be priceless for both clubs. However, a victory would also deal a huge psychological blow ahead of the Parker Pen semis.