

SARACENS SATURDAY 3RD MAY 2008

KICK-OFF 6.00PM

# FEAUNATI The last stand

# SARACENS All you need to know



ATCH Ball Sponsor  
**Helpfire**

20 QUESTIONS

Maddock under the spotlight

ATCH Sponsors  
**Lyreco** At your side **brother.**

Sponsors

**WILTS**  
electrical wholesalers



**Helpfire**



**GUINNESS**

**O<sub>2</sub>**



**CORAL**

THE TIMES



[www.guinnesspremiership.com](http://www.guinnesspremiership.com)



Head Coach Steve Meehan

TODAY'S TEAMS

Director of Rugby Alan Gaffney

# BATH RUGBY

V

# SARACENS

T C P D




Nick ABENDANON  
Joe MADDOCK  
Alex CROCKETT  
Olly BARKLEY  
Matt BANAHAN  
Butch JAMES  
Michael CLAASSENS

15 FULLBACK 15  
14 RIGHT WING 14  
13 CENTRE 13  
12 CENTRE 12  
11 LEFT WING 11  
10 FLY HALF 10  
9 SCRUM HALF 9

Richard HAUGHTON  
Francisco LEONELLI  
Kevin SORRELL  
Adam POWELL  
Kameli RATUVOU  
Glen JACKSON  
Neil DE KOCK (C) PAULINI

T C P D





David BARNES  
Lee MEARS  
Matt STEVENS  
Steve BORTHWICK (C)  
Danny GREWCOCK  
Jonny FAAMATUANU  
Michael LIPMAN  
Daniel BROWNE

1 PROP 1  
2 HOOKER 2  
3 PROP 3  
4 LOCK 4  
5 LOCK 5  
6 FLANKER 6  
7 FLANKER 7  
8 NO 8 8

Nick LLOYD YATES  
Matt CAIRNS ONGARO  
Census JOHNSTON  
Hugh VYVYAN FULLARTON  
Tom RYDER  
Kris CHESNEY SEYMOUR  
Don BARRELL  
Paul GUSTARD





Pieter DIXON  
Duncan BELL  
Peter SHORT  
Zak FEAUNATI  
Nick WALSH  
Shaun BERNE  
Andrew HIGGINS

16 REPLACEMENT 16  
17 REPLACEMENT 17  
18 REPLACEMENT 18  
19 REPLACEMENT 19  
20 REPLACEMENT 20  
21 REPLACEMENT 21  
22 REPLACEMENT 22

Fabio ONGARO  
Tom MERCEY  
Iain FULLARTON  
David SEYMOUR  
Moses PAULINI  
Gordon ROSS  
Dan SCARBROUGH


FINAL SCORE

TODAY'S OFFICIALS: Referee | Rob Debney Touch Judges | Paul Dix and Andrew Pearce

FINAL SCORE

**WILTS**  
electrical wholesalers

**Wincanton**

**RHINO**

**Helpire**

**Radio 100.4**

**PUMA**

**Lucozade SPORT**

**GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP**

# AGAINST THE ODDS

WORDS | MIKE HARTWELL PICTURES | GETTY IMAGES



Saracens travel to The Rec today on the back of a brave and battling performance in the Heineken Cup semi-final against Munster last weekend.

The North London club delivered a performance filled with pride and

passion but came up short against the Irish provincial powerhouse to miss out 18-16. Emotions were there for all to see at the final whistle – especially having come so close to upsetting the odds in a match where few, if any, pundits gave them a chance of winning.

But today, the action returns to the Guinness Premiership and although Heineken Cup qualification looks beyond Saracens for next season, the importance of a strong finish to the campaign will not be lost on Alan Gaffney's side.

Saracens started their 2007/08 campaign against Wasps in the London Double Header at Twickenham and the European Champions were beaten 19-29 in what was a superb display from the Men In Black.

Tries from Hugh Vyvyan, Adam Powell and Neil de Kock saw the team to victory in a display which owed much to patience, keeping control of the ball and executing the game plan.

Things didn't go quite so according to plan the following week when Gloucester were the visitors to Vicarage Road and they left with a 31-38 victory. Saracens led 14-6 early in the first half but a number of scoring chances went begging – allowing Gloucester back into what turned out to be an entertaining clash.

However, the Men In Black were back to winning ways the following week as they picked up five points at Headingley. Tries from Rodd Penney, Richard Haughton, Noah Cato and Vyvyan secured the bonus point

**“Last weekend’s Heineken Cup semi-final appearance was the fourth time in two years that the Men In Black have made the last four of a competition in what has been an exciting period”**

SARACENS

victory as they ran out 31-7 winners against Leeds Carnegie.

Further wins followed against Worcester, Leicester Tigers and London Irish that got the Premiership campaign off to a fine start.

In the EDF Energy Cup, two maximum point wins over Leeds Carnegie and Bristol set up a semi-final clash with the Ospreys but that ended in defeat at the Millennium Stadium.

However, they got their revenge two weeks later when the Ospreys were beaten at Vicarage Road in the Heineken Cup to set up the clash against Munster in the last four of the competition.

Over Christmas, a win at Harlequins but a defeat at home to Newcastle Falcons and a loss at Bristol made it a mixed festive season for Gaffney's men but they still went into 2008 still sitting in third place in the Premiership.

After that, home wins over Bath and Worcester have kept the club in the top half of the table. However, successive defeats to Newcastle Falcons, Harlequins and London Irish meant recent wins over Sale Sharks and Leeds have kept alive Premiership hopes.

However, defeats at Gloucester and at home to Wasps ruled out any hopes of a repeat of last season's Premiership play-off spot. However, last weekend's Heineken Cup semi-final appearance was the fourth time in two years that the Men In Black have made the last four of a competition in what has been an exciting period under Director of Rugby Alan Gaffney and his coaching team of Richard Graham and Adrian Kennedy.

**“Emotions were there for all to see at the final whistle – especially come so close to upsetting the odds in a match where few, if any, pundits gave them a chance of winning”**



THE CAPTAIN NEIL DE KOCK

One of the contenders for the 2006/07 Player of the Season, Neil de Kock made an instant impression on the Saracens following his move from Western Province at the start of the season. A regular with the province in the Currie Cup and also with Super 14 side The Stormers, he is widely regarded as one of the most talented scrum halves in South Africa.

A player who is quick to the breakdown and with an excellent kicking game, he formed a fantastic partnership with Glen Jackson last season that was one of the key reasons behind the Men In Black's fourth place Premiership finish. He is set to captain for the 2007/08 season.