

BATH RUGBY VS GLOUCESTER

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP
SATURDAY 8 MAY 2004
KICK-OFF 3.00pm

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VOLUME 4 ISSUE 16



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- Wylie HUMAN 14
- Spencer DAVEY 13
- Robbie FLECK 12
- Simon DANIELLI 11

- Chris MALONE 10
- Martyn WOOD 9

- David BARNES 1
- Jonathan HUMPHREYS (C) 2
- Duncan BELL 3
- Steve BORTHWICK 4
- Danny GREWCOCK 5
- Andy BEATTIE 6
- Michael LIPMAN 7
- Isaac FEAUNATI 8

REPLACEMENTS

- Hentie MARTENS 16
- Lee MEARS 17
- Alex CLARKE 18
- Olly BARKLEY 19
- Mike CATT 20
- James SCAYSBROOK 21
- Rob FIDLER 22

HEAD COACH:

John CONNOLLY



LINEUPS

- 15 Riaan VAN DER B
- 14 Marcel GARVEY
- 13 Terry FANOLUA
- 12 Henry PAUL
- 11 James SIMPSON

- 10 Duncan MCRAE
- 9 Andy GOMARSAL

- 1 Trevor WOODMA
- 2 Chris FORTEY
- 3 Andy DEACON
- 4 Mark CORNWELL
- 5 Alex BROWN
- 6 Peter BUXTON
- 7 Jake BOER (C)
- 8 Junior PARAMORE

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 Delarey DU PREE
- 17 Rodrigo RONCER
- 18 Nick WOOD
- 19 Adam EUSTACE
- 20 Andy HAZELL
- 21 Simon AMOR
- 22 Robert TODD

DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

Nigel MELVILLE

MATCH SPONSOR



TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE Steve LANDER

TOUCH JUDGES Ashley REAY, Huw JONES-WILLIAMS



Having beaten in form London Wasps at Kingsholm last weekend, Gloucester arrive at the Rec with a shot at being able to secure a place in the Zurich Premiership semi-final ahead of Northampton Saints.

If the Saints fall at home to an NEC Harlequins side that are pushing hard to secure a place in next season's Heineken Cup, then a win is likely to be enough to send Gloucester through to the Zurich Premiership semi-finals next Sunday when either Bath Rugby or London Wasps will be the opposition.

For the Cherry and Whites this rediscovery of form could not have come at a better time. Last weekend's victory over London Wasps will not only have served to boost confidence but also quash all memories of that disappointing Heineken Cup quarter final defeat at the Causeway Stadium last month. Indeed, Gloucester, who have won their last two matches convincingly, will feel that they can now go on and beat anyone in the Zurich Premiership—including Bath Rugby and London Wasps.

The turn around can be attributed by and large to what has been a tremendous amount of soul searching amongst the players since that defeat at the Causeway Stadium. There is plenty of team spirit within the Gloucester camp and the side have the uncanny ability to be able to deliver when they are in 'backs against the walls' situations.

They have one of the best attacking and defensive lineouts around and last weekend Alex Brown was outstanding in this area. The Gloucester pack was in complete control of the Wasps eight for seventy minutes at Kingsholm and it is in the set pieces where they will look to establish an edge this afternoon.



Andy Deacon



Line out man Alex Brown

Playing in tricky conditions last weekend the pick and go was particularly impressive. In Junior Paramore, Alex Brown, Chris Fortey, Jake Boer and Trevor Woodman, Gloucester have very good ball carriers and they will be looking to work them into the game. Noteworthy was the performance of Woodman who seems to be back to his rampaging best after a quiet couple of months.

Phil Vickery may well be missing from the front row, and that might be a worry for Nigel Melville's side against what is a strong Bath Rugby eight. However, the Cornishman's understudy this afternoon is no mean replacement. Andy Deacon, who hangs his boots up at the end of the season, has played in plenty of derby matches in over a decade of competition. He is a strong scrummager and a true team man and will be looking to bow out in what will be his last big derby game.

Behind the scrum there is also class aplenty. Henry Paul is an outstanding playmaker and is one of those players who is able to conjure something out of nothing. Paul combines well with Australian fly half Duncan McRea and the pair are able to get Gloucester moving around the park extremely well, bringing the likes of James Simpson-Daniel and Marcel Garvey into the game at every opportunity. The wingers are currently riding high in the top try scorers table and are two of the most devastating finishers in the Zurich Premiership.

Both coaches have been keen to play down the impact of the derby game in the professional era, but tell that to the 44 players who will be involved in what is likely to be a real belter of a contest this afternoon!