



SHORT
French
experience

GLOUCESTER
An overview



MATT PERRY
A legend retires

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INFORMATION SOLUTIONS





Head Coach Steve Meehan

TODAY'S TEAMS

Head Coach Dean Ryan



BATH RUGBY



GLOUCESTER

T C P D

Nick **ABENDANON**Joe **MADDOCK**Shaun **BERNE**Olly **BARKLEY**Tom **CHEESEMAM**Chris **MALONE**Nick **WALSHE**David **BARNES**Lee **MEARS**Matt **STEVENS**Steve **BORTHWICK (C)**Danny **GREWCOCK**Andy **BEATTIE**Michael **LIPMAN**Isaac **FEAUNATI**Pieter **DIXON**Aaron **JARVIS**Peter **SHORT**James **SCAYSBROOK**Andy **WILLIAMS**David **BORY**Chev **WALKER**

15 FULL BACK 15

14 RIGHT WING 14

13 CENTRE 13

12 CENTRE 12

11 LEFT WING 11

10 FLY HALF 10

9 SCRUM HALF 9

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

16 REPLACEMENT 16

17 REPLACEMENT 17

18 REPLACEMENT 18

19 REPLACEMENT 19

20 REPLACEMENT 20

21 REPLACEMENT 21

22 REPLACEMENT 22

Willie **WALKER**James **BAILEY**Mike **TINDALL**Anthony **ALLEN**James **SIMPSON-DANIEL**Ryan **LAMB**Peter **RICHARDS**Nick **WOOD**Mefin **DAVIES**Carlos **NIETO**Marco **BORTOLAMI (C)**Alex **BROWN**Peter **BUXTON**Andy **HAZELL**James **FORRESTER**Olivier **AZAM**Jack **FORSTER**Jake **BOER**Adam **EUSTACE**Rory **LAWSON**Mark **FOSTER**Iain **BALSHAW**

T C P D

FINAL SCORE

TODAY'S OFFICIALS: Referee | Dave Pearson | Touch Judges | Peter Huckle and Ashley Reay

FINAL SCORE

northgate
INFORMATION SOLUTIONS

Wincanton

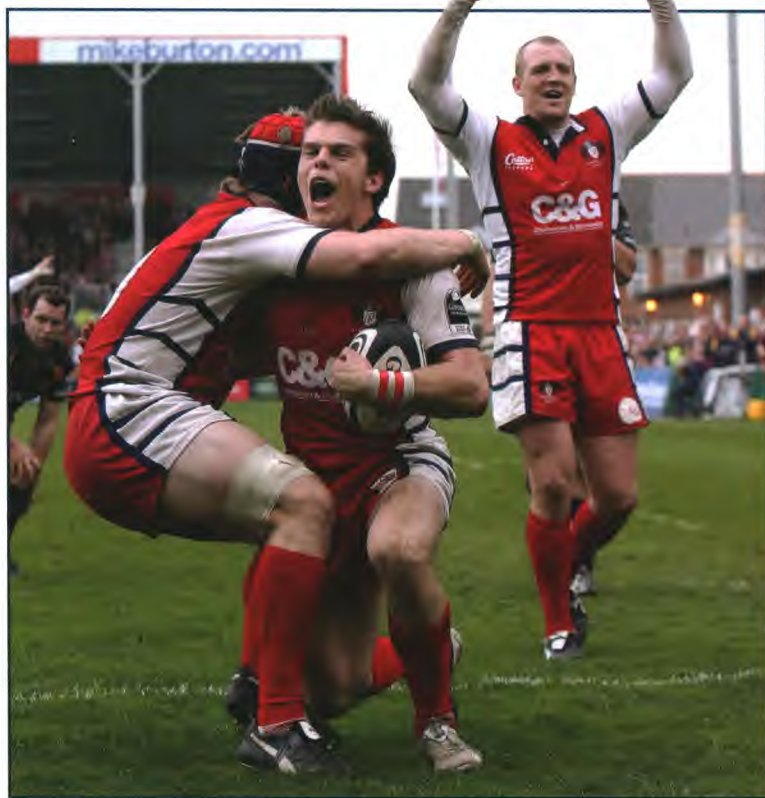


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CONSISTENCY THE KEY

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It will not be lost on the Cherry and White side of this domestic dispute that their record at the Rec is on the abysmal side of horrendous – but that is unlikely to faze Dean Ryan and his troops this afternoon.

The Gloucester head coach brings his Guinness Premiership table-toppers to Bath for one of the most eagerly anticipated fixtures of the season, aiming for a home draw in the play-offs. Gloucester's season has been one of consistency, built on the back of an unbeaten home record and some crucial victories on the road.

From the beginning of the

campaign they have been tagged as one of the favourites for the final stages of a number of competitions, but Ryan is only too aware that this group of players have only just begun their journey – emphasised when they finished third in their Heineken Cup pool.

"Our ambition is to be at the top end of Europe but our journey has only just begun," he has said. "There will be some pain along the way but we have an exciting and developing group of players who all work tremendously hard to try and be successful. We are on a journey together and there is a long way to go."

Last season culminated in the triumph over London Irish last season in the European Challenge Cup Final, and by then, the wheels were already in motion for this campaign.

Under the stewardship of Ryan and his assistants Bryan Redpath and Denis Betts, Italian duo Marco Bortolami and Carlos Nieto joined from Narbonne and Viadana respectively in two of the highest-profile signings of the close season.

Bortolami is an outstanding athlete and a natural leader of growing reputation in Gloucester's pack, and Nieto is regarded as one of the best tighthead props in the Six Nations.

Christian Califano, once voted in the all-time best French front row, switched from Agen and has been a revelation, offering set-piece quality and a perfect learning base for youngster Jack Forster.

There were other additions too. With Ryan Lamb initially out of action with an ankle injury, Willie Walker took his opportunity in the number ten shirt, while both scrum-half Rory Lawson and lock Will James have the potential to make serious impacts.

Iain Balshaw completed the summer recruitment drive from Leeds, and with the likes of Andy Hazell, Peter Buxton and Alex Brown playing some outstanding rugby up front, Gloucester have enough quality all over the field to do some real damage, as victories over Sale and Wasps demonstrate. It has meant that Ryan's biggest job has been managing the vast expectation of his squad.

With close victories over Worcester, Northampton and Leicester in recent weeks, Gloucester are closing in on their top-two target and will relish the battle today.