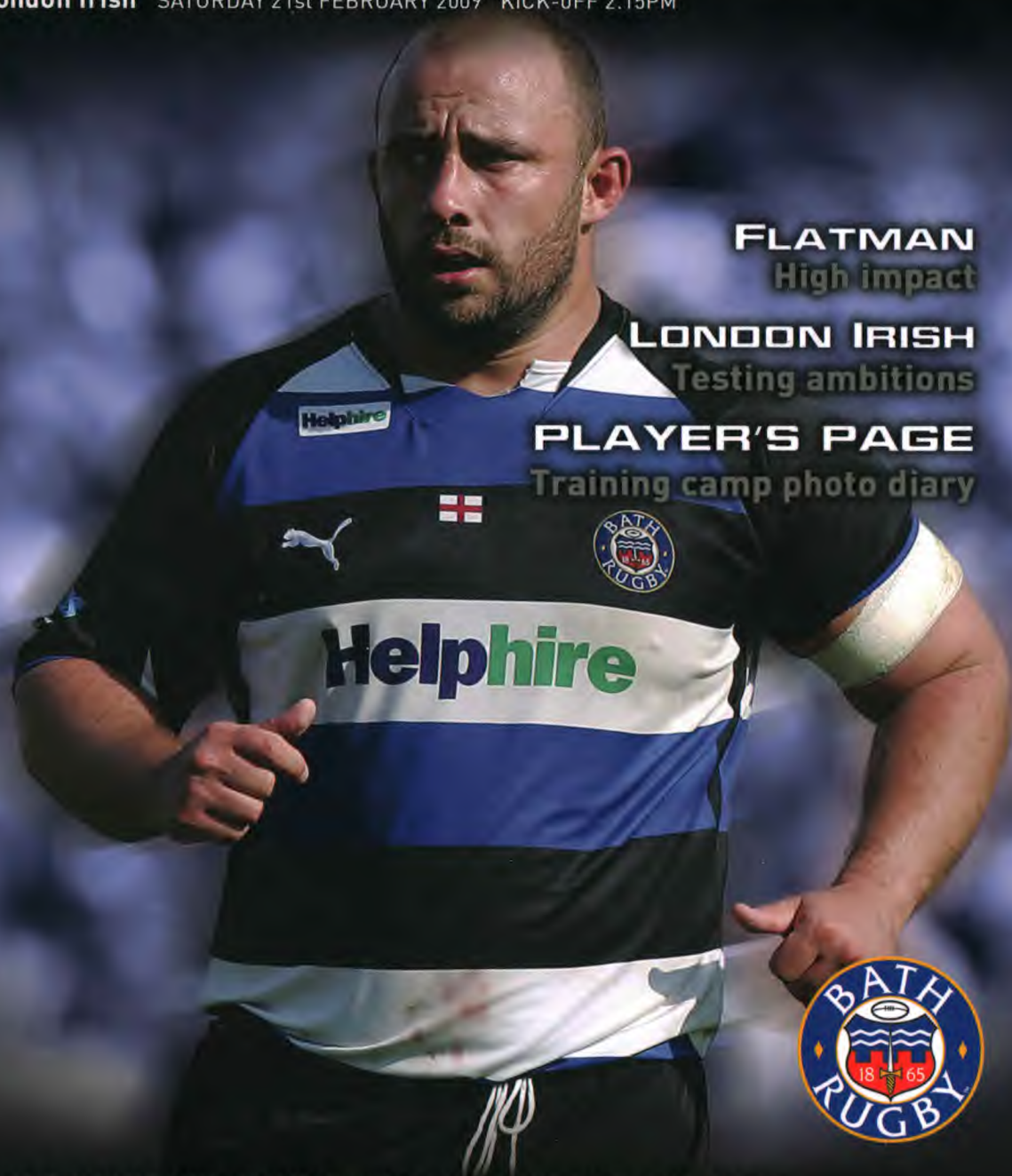


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T C P D



Nick **ABENDANON**

Higgins Joe **MADDOCK**

Alex **CROCKETT**

Eliota **FUIMAONO-SAPOLU**

Matt **BANAHAN**

Butch **JAMES**

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Daniel **BROWNE**



Rob **HAWKINS**

Aaron **JARVIS**

Peter **SHORT**

Jonny **FAAMATUAINU**

Scott **BEMAND**

Shaun **BERNE**

Andrew **HIGGINS**

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

1	PROP	1
2	HOOVER	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

Mike **CATT**

Topsy **OJO**

Elvis **SEVEALI'I**

Seilala **MAPUSUA**

Adam **THOMPSTONE**

Shane **GERAGHTY**

Paul **HODGSON**



T C P D

Clarke **DERMODY**

James **BUCKLAND**

Tonga **LEA'AETOA**

James **HUDSON**

Bob **CASEY(C)**

Richard **THORPE**

Steffon **ARMITAGE**

Chris **HALA'UFIA**



Alex **CORBISIERO**

Danie **COETZEE**

Gary **JOHNSON**

Jonathon **FISHER**

Charlie **GOWER**

Alfredo **LALANNE**

James **BAILEY**



	FINAL SCORE
--	-------------

TODAY'S OFFICIALS: Referee: Chris White

Referees Assistants: Alan Biggs and Robert Mullis

	FINAL SCORE
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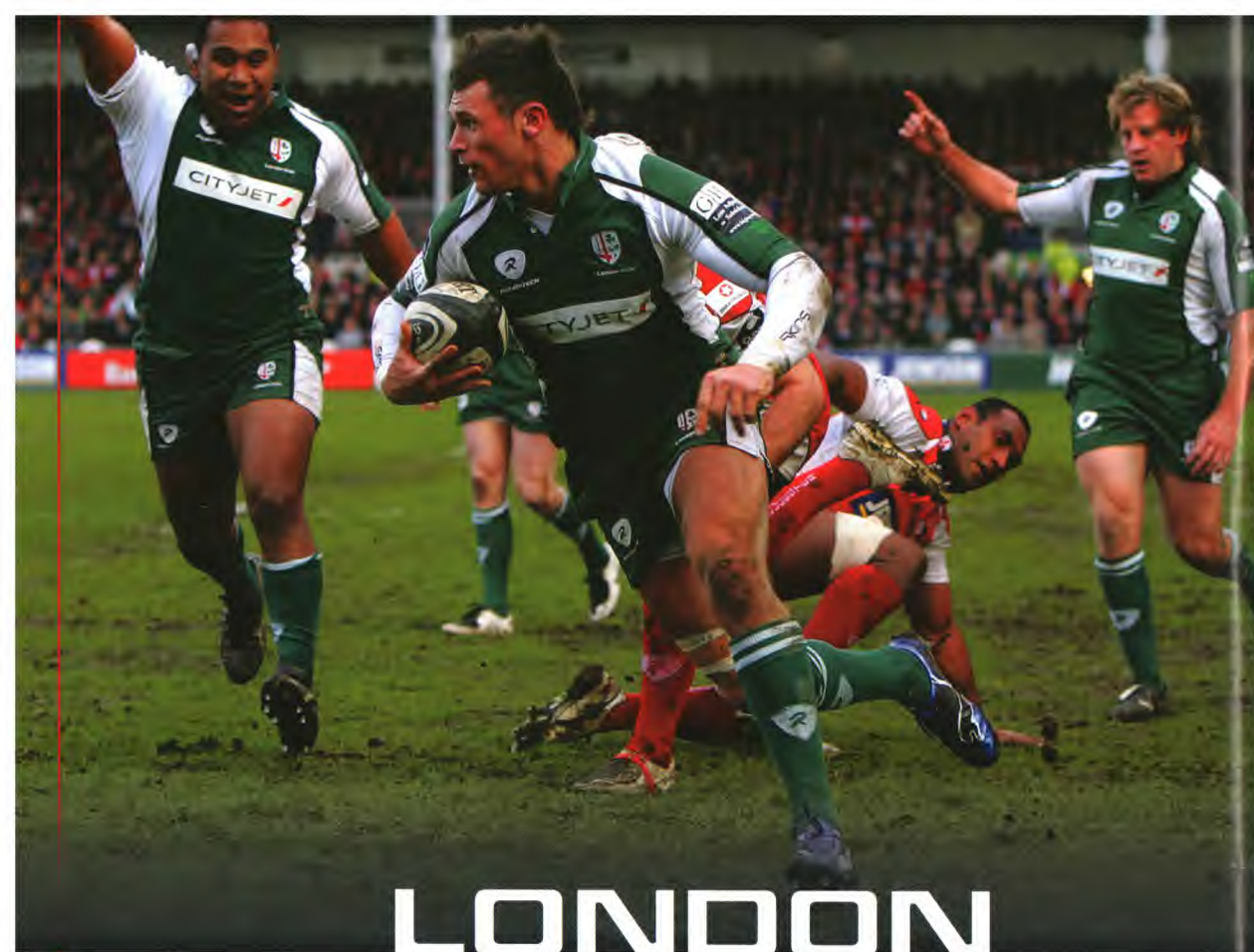


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LONDON IRISH

London Irish's season got off to the best possible start with an opening day win over London Wasps, the current Guinness Premiership Champions, at Twickenham Stadium on 6th September. A combination of ferocious defence, understanding of the ELVs and sound execution of the game plan resulted in an important victory.

The players displayed great mental strength in putting themselves into a position to win the subsequent league matches against Leicester Tigers and Bath Rugby, only to fall

at the last hurdle. At Welford Road they lost by the narrowest of margins, 17-16. The following Saturday, although Irish pushed Bath to the limit, the team had to be satisfied with a losing bonus point.

The club earned nine valuable league points from two remarkable performances against Harlequins and Sale Sharks respectively. After trailing 20-8 at half-time against old rivals Harlequins, the Exiles produced an exceptional second half of rugby, scoring 20 points, to win by 28-27. Four days later, Irish hosted

Sale Sharks at Madejski Stadium and ended the early league leaders unbeaten run by outscoring them by four tries to none.

The opening EDF Energy Cup fixture of the season was away to Worcester who took their chances and emerged comfortable winners by 22-5.

Irish set new club records for the number of points scored and the biggest winning margin in any match it has played in the professional era in defeating Rugby Rovigo in the opening round of the

BOB CASEY

Bob Casey (29) was appointed Captain of London Irish in August 2007. The popular appointment was due recognition for the talismanic Ireland international whose leadership qualities had been much in evidence over the previous two seasons.

Bob joined London Irish in July 2002 from Leinster and has played 173 games for the club scoring six tries. He has contributed greatly to the performance of the Exiles' pack where his partnership with Nick Kennedy, Kieran Roche and James Hudson, made the Irish lineout the most effective in the Guinness Premiership over the last two seasons.

His leadership qualities have been much in evidence this season as he has led the team to qualification for the quarter-final stage of the European Challenge Cup and to a top four place in the Guinness Premiership.

He has also been recalled to the Ireland squad and captained Ireland A to victory over Scotland last Friday.

The Ireland international is the latest in a line of distinguished players to have captained the Exiles in the professional era. His predecessors include Mike Catt, Gary Halpin, Conor O'Shea and Ryan Strudwick.



European Challenge Cup by 78-3. That was followed up with an away win over Connacht in Galway.

A return visit to the Stoop in the EDF Energy Cup was a reprise of the match four weeks earlier, thanks to another dramatic second half turnaround. That set up a match with the Ospreys, the current cup holders. In a thrilling contest at Madejski Stadium, the Exiles beat the Welsh team but were unable to deny them a crucial bonus point that saw them through to the semi-final.

An important away win over Newcastle Falcons was followed by a competitive and compelling, action-packed 80 minutes against Saracens in Reading. Irish outscored the 'Men in Black' by three tries to one. The first of the season's visits to the West Country was to Bristol on 30th November and brought a narrow 18-13 win.

December had back-to-back home and away wins over U S Dax in the European Challenge Cup before a crucial Premiership match with Gloucester on 20th December. Irish's 42-12 win saw them take over top place in the Premiership table for the first time since October 1999. The important Christmas and New Year period brought a home win over Newcastle and bonus point losses to Saracens and Sale. That was enough for the Exiles to return to the top of the Premiership table going into rounds five and six in European competition.

Another two Challenge Cup victories in January over Connacht and Rugby Rovigo earned the club a home quarter-final against Bourgoin. The players hope to go one step further and win this year's tournament following the disappointment of the 2006 final defeat by Gloucester.

Kingsholm continued to be a difficult arena for the Exiles on 31st January when the Cherr and-Whites capitalised on the visitors' poor discipline in the second half and won narrowly. Last weekend London Irish played 60 minutes of the home match against Harlequins with men and lost by four points.

The consistently good form of London Irish players in the first half of the season has resulted in record call-ups to national squads for the Six Nations. Club captain Bob Casey has been with the Ireland squad and Delon Armitage, Steffon Armitage, Shane Geraghty, Nick Kennedy and Paul Hodgson have been the England EPS. That combination with injuries to five key players has tested the depth of the squad to the full.

This afternoon's match with a form Bath team will provide a test of the club's ambitions to finish in the top four in the le.