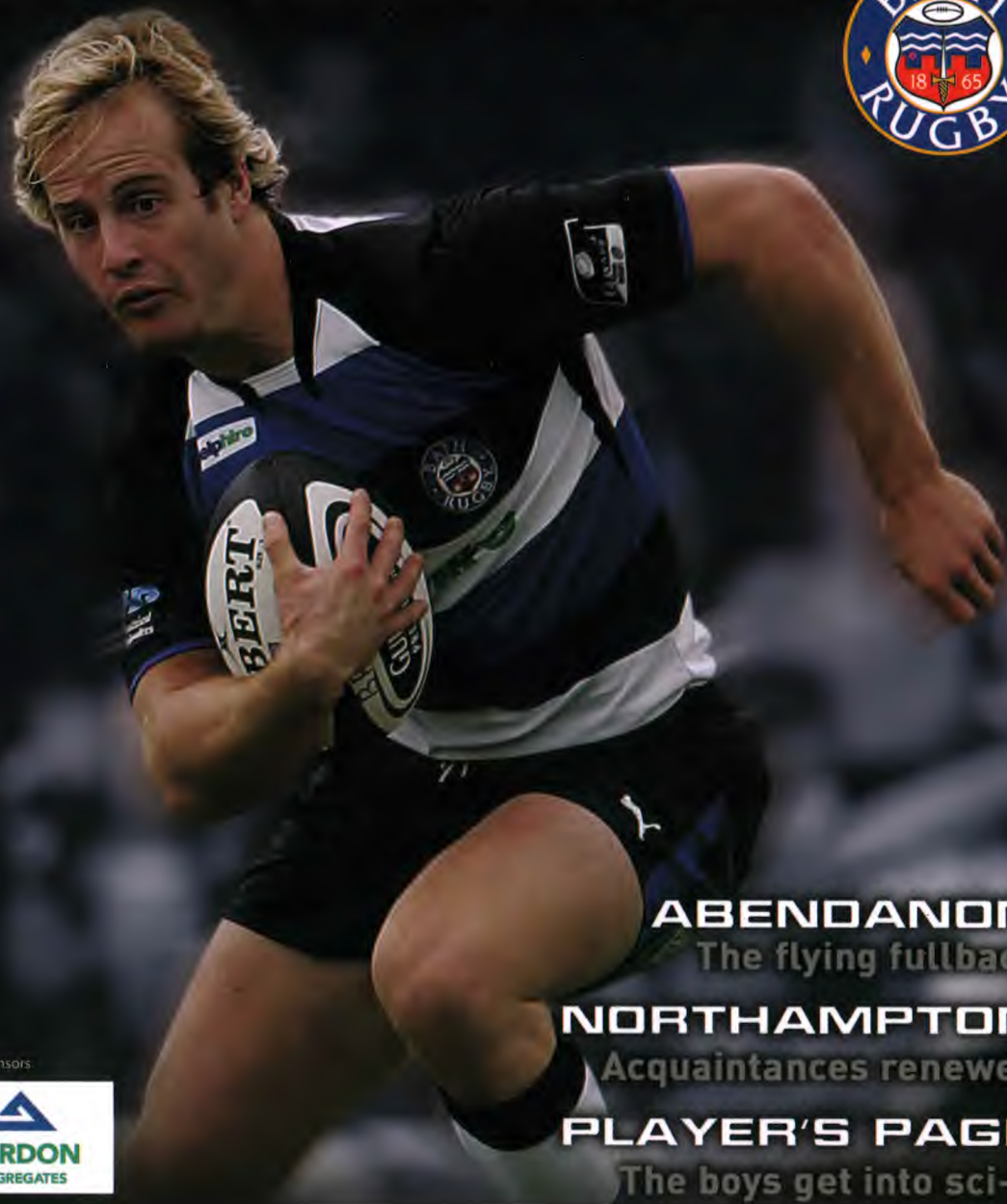


BATH RUGBY

V Northampton Saints SATURDAY 27th DECEMBER 2008 KICK-OFF 2.15PM



ABENDANON
The flying fullback

NORTHAMPTON
Acquaintances renewed

PLAYER'S PAGE
The boys get into sci-fi

Match Sponsors





BATH RUGBY

Head Coach Steve Meehan



NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

Director of Rugby Jim Mallinder



T C P D

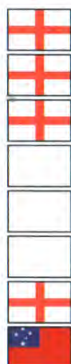


- Jack **CUTHBERT**
- Joe **MADDOCK**
- Alex **CROCKETT**
- Shontayne **HAPE**
- Matt **BANAHAN**
- Butch **JAMES**
- Michael **CLAASSENS**

- 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

- Bruce **REIHANA** ©
- Paul **DIGGIN**
- Jon **CLARKE**
- James **DOWNEY**
- Sean **LAMONT**
- Stephen **MYLER**
- Lee **DICKSON**

T C P D



- David **FLATMAN**
- Lee **MEARS**
- Matt **STEVENS**
- Stuart **HOOPER**
- Peter **SHORT**
- Andy **BEATTIE**
- Michael **LIPMAN** ©
- Jonny **FAAMATUAINU**

- 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

- Soane **TONGA'UIHA**
- Dylan **HARTLEY**
- Euan **MURRAY**
- Ignacio **FERNANDEZ LOBBE**
- Christian **DAY**
- Mark **EASTER**
- Scott **GRAY**
- Roger **WILSON**



- Pieter **DIXON**
- Duncan **BELL**
- Justin **HARRISON**
- Daniel **BROWNE**
- Scott **BEMAND**
- Eliota **FUIMAONO-SAPOLU**
- Nick **ABENDANON**

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

- Paul **SHIELDS**
- Tom **SMITH**
- Alex **RAE**
- Mark **HOPLEY**
- Ben **FODEN**
- Carlos **SPENCER**
- Chris **MAYOR**

FINAL SCORE

TODAY'S OFFICIALS: Referee | Andrew Small Assistant Referees | Andrew Pearce and Alan Biggs

FINAL SCORE



CAPTAIN BRUCE REIHANA

This is Bruce Reihana's sixth season at Franklin's Gardens and his fourth as captain. The former Waikato Chief and All Black arrived in Northampton with a 'utility' tag, but during his time in England he has become one of the most recognisable, popular, committed and effective players in the Premiership.



NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

The Saints team and head home this year will be sick and tired of M5. That is because away games have been the West Country – Guinness Premiership Cup, Gloucester in ship and Bath this

the six games that drives to Exeter or the National League stretches of this part of the world familiar!

season could have been disastrous. Relegated clubs themselves up off the

in the league views their matches with you as the biggest of the season – particularly when your squad includes Carlos Spencer, Bruce Reihana, Dylan Hartley, Tom Smith and the rest of the Saints band of internationals. Throw in the EDF Energy National Trophy and the season becomes five weeks longer.

Far from being catastrophic, however, the 2007/08 National League One campaign proved to be a cathartic process. In came a new director of rugby, Jim Mallinder,

Gardens the team achieved an unprecedented undefeated season. 35 matches, 35 wins and two pieces of silverware later and the Saints were back in the big time.

The last few months have been a bedding in process for Northampton Saints as they look to re-establish themselves as one of the elite clubs in England. As with every summer in the top flight there was more player turnover last summer, notably at scrum-half. In came Alan Dickens (Saracens), Lee Dickson

Saint Andre famously said that he would eat his hat if full back was not Foden's best position.

The Guinness Premiership season could not have started any better with a win over Worcester Warriors at Franklin's Gardens. Indeed the Gardens have been a happy hunting ground for the Saints recently with London Wasps, Bristol, Montpellier and the Scarlets all leaving Northampton empty-handed. This home form has been key as the Saints reached the semi-finals of the EDF Energy Cup and the knock out stages of the European Challenge Cup with two rounds to spare.

was the fightback and draw against Bath and the small matter of two red cards and a yellow in the match against Montpellier – although all were for the French outfit!

Away from home it has been a somewhat different story. After leading at Newcastle, Saracens and Leicester at half-time, the team went on to collect a grand total of zero league points. Even worse, in all three games Saints were in a position to earn valuable losing bonus points only to concede late tries. The trip to the Memorial Stadium yielded a first away league point, although Saints were once again in a position to win the game with 10

The only time they have been well beaten was in the last Premiership trip to Gloucester, when the red-hot Cherry and Whites secured the first try-scoring bonus point to be conceded by the Saints this season.

Indeed the only away wins have been in Europe – a stunning 56-3, seven-try success in Toulon and a rather more measured 25-21 win at Bristol two weeks ago.

The EDF Energy Cup semi-final against Cardiff awaits in March, but this and the European success will pale into insignificance if Guinness Premiership survival is not achieved come the end of the