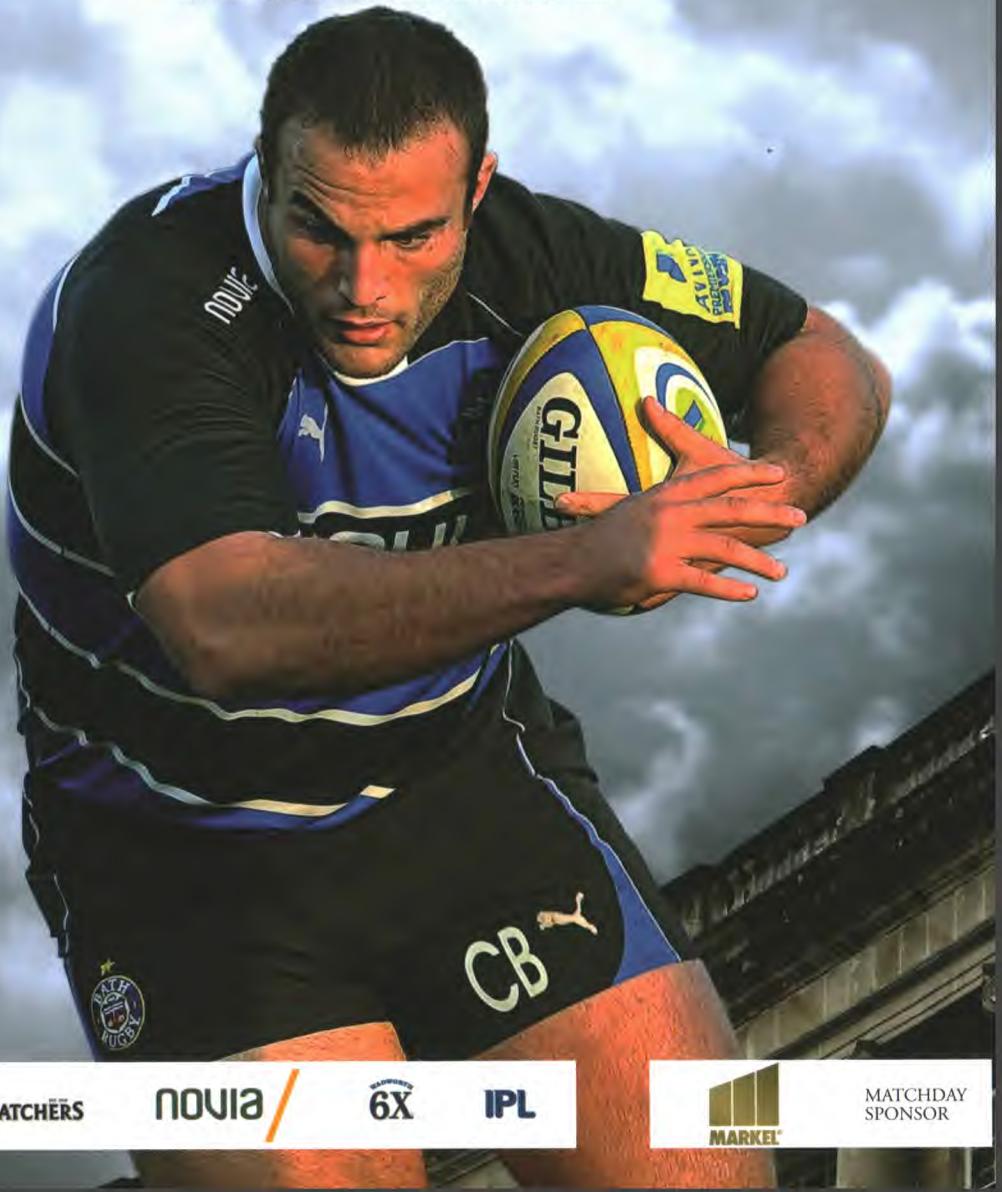




Vs NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

28TH JANUARY 2012 • KICK OFF 2.30pm

2011/2012 OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME • £3.00



THATCHERS

nokia /

6X

IPL



MATCHDAY
SPONSOR

TODAY'S TEAMS



BATH RUGBY

FULLBACK	XV
WING	XIV
CENTRE	XIII
CENTRE	XII
WING	XI
FLY HALF	X
SCRUM HALF	IX
PROP	I
HOOKER	II
PROP	III
LOCK	IV
LOCK	V
FLANKER	VI
FLANKER	VII
NO. 8	VIII
REPLACEMENT	XVI
REPLACEMENT	XVII
REPLACEMENT	XVIII
REPLACEMENT	XIX
REPLACEMENT	XX
REPLACEMENT	XXI
REPLACEMENT	XXII
REPLACEMENT	XXIII



LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Bath Rugby 23 Glasgow Warriors 18

Northampton Saints 36 Munster 51

TODAY'S REFEREE – SEAN DAVEY

TOUCH JUDGES – PAUL DIX AND

DAN BURTON

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS



XV	FULLBACK
XIV	WING
XIII	CENTRE
XII	CENTRE
XI	WING
X	FLY HALF
IX	SCRUM HALF
I	PROP
II	HOOKER
III	PROP
IV	LOCK
V	LOCK
VI	FLANKER
VII	FLANKER
VIII	NO. 8
XVI	REPLACEMENT
XVII	REPLACEMENT
XVIII	REPLACEMENT
XIX	REPLACEMENT
XX	REPLACEMENT
XXI	REPLACEMENT
XXII	REPLACEMENT
XXIII	REPLACEMENT



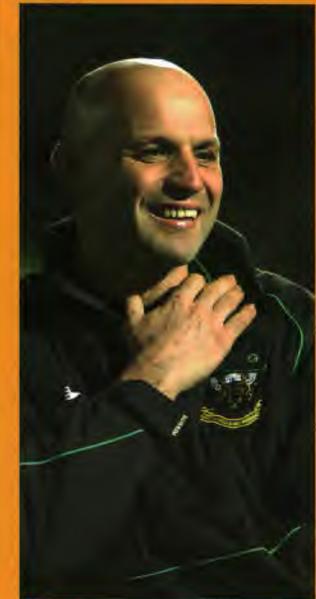
TODAY'S MATCHDAY SPONSOR





COACH

JIM MALLINDER



Under the leadership of director of rugby Jim Mallinder, the Saints have gone from being in the second tier of English club rugby to a team considered as genuine Premiership and European contenders.

Success immediately followed the former Churchill Cup winning Saxons coach to Northampton, the Amlin Challenge Cup and LV= Cup coming off the back of an undefeated return to Premiership Rugby.

In fact, Heineken Cup final heartbreak meant that 2010/11 was the Yorkshireman's first without a trophy and if Saints can put that right with a major this year, it would signal the culmination of a remarkable five years at Franklin's Gardens.

weekend may have been the culmination of a bitterly disappointing exit from Europe, one silver lining must be taken from the Heineken Cup cloud, it is one that allows Northampton Saints to switch their focus purely to domestic matters for the remainder of the 2011/12 season.

As the Saints remain well winning for a domestic campaign, having lost just once in Premiership Rugby and the since September, the fifth of league action did suggest that this would be a case.

An opening day win over Worcester at Franklin's Gardens was a perfect start, but a run of defeats would follow and Saints slip alarmingly off the pace set by Harlequins, current league leaders. In fact, the first side to victory against the Saints away night clash at the

Stoop and a week later, the home record would follow the undefeated record out of the window.

London Irish were the beneficiaries of a late Gardens winner this time and after throwing away a deserved lead at Sale to end the match without even a losing bonus, Worcester rubbed salt into the wounds with a 12-3 victory at Sixways which left the Saints looking more relegation battlers than title contenders.

Fast forward four months and supporters at the Gardens may

well be wondering what all the fuss was about. The introduction of as many as eight Rugby World Cup representatives was an obvious boost, but the much needed revival had begun the week before.

When the Chiefs came to town on a hot run of form, they may well have sensed a scalp for the taking, but a 33-3 romp put paid to those ideas and set the tone for much of what was to follow.

Saracens, Bath and Quins have all since left the Gardens empty-handed and a pair of maximums over Newcastle has seen the

Saints surge into the tightly fought playoff battle.

It has been a case of combining the old with the new, the likes of Ryan Lamb, George Pisi, Tom May and Vasily Artemyev all summer signings who have made a big impact, not to mention former amateur American Samu Manoa.

The Academy quartet of Jamie Elliott, Mike Haywood, Ben Nutley and Alex Waller have all confirmed their potential as first team challengers and their continued emergence will prove vital in the coming weeks, with as many as ten Saints away with England.

Their absence starts this afternoon as the Saints look to build on bonus point LV= Cup wins over the Ospreys and Saracens and there has been no secret made about how much they would like to repeat their LV= Cup success of 2010.

Still, Jim Mallinder's men found out the hard way how tough a place the Rec is to play last season and lifting trophies will be the last thing on the Saints' minds as they look to set the ball rolling for a vital two months of domestic rugby.