



SARACENS

Club Partnership Programme 2004/5

CLUBS UPDATE

16th November 2004

TEAM NEWS

Harlequins Match Reaction

Kafer admits catalogue of errors cost Saracens the game...

Following Saracens disappointing defeat at The Stoop on Friday night, Head Coach Rod Kafer highlighted poor defence and a high number of turnovers that saw his side conceding four tries in the opening 15 minutes.

Kafer said: "That first half was the worst we have played, but it was also probably Harlequins best 40 minutes of the season and when you combine the two, it meant we were thoroughly outplayed in the first period.

"It was an unacceptable performance. One of our biggest problems came with turnovers. We were turned over eight times in the opening 15 minutes and also had six poor kicks. It's not good enough. Four tries in the opening 15 minutes completely changed the face of the match and the game plan on which we had worked. As a result, we ended up chasing the game.

"We're treating this result for what it was - a poor performance. We have turned in a poor defensive performance two weeks running. I've spoken to Mike Ford (Saracens Defensive Coach who is currently on international duty with the Ireland team) and he's reviewed both games and we are working hard to resolve the issues.

"These things can happen. There are many instances where teams have been on the end of such a result and we are all disappointed that it happened to us. You don't forget how to defend in three or four weeks, we just let areas of our game slip and we just have to find the right balance between working on attack and defence.

"We face a massive task at Vicarage Road next Sunday when we face Gloucester. And after seeing the way we performed, they will be travelling to us expecting to take five points so we have to work very hard in training and turn in a much improved performance next week."

NEXT MATCH:

Saracens vs Gloucester – Sunday 21st Nov. Vicarage Road Stadium, Watford.

Gloucester, who are currently lying fourth in the Zurich Premiership with six wins from nine, have been one of the form sides of the last few seasons. A host of experienced hands like Phil Vickery, Terry Fanolua, Jake Boer, Olivier Azam and Andy Gommersall are complemented by young stars like James Simpson-Daniel, James Forester, Marcel Garvey and John Goodridge and when you add the likes of Duncan McRae and Henry Paul to the mix you can see why.

The West Country side are famous for their hard, attritional pack but they also now boast one of the most potent back lines in the premiership, which Saracens have found this out to their cost in recent seasons.

With the game being played during the Autumn Internationals Gloucester will be missing a handful of players like Henry Paul but the strength in depth possessed by Nigel Melville's men will mean that they will still be travelling to Vicarage Road with confidence.

This fixture looks to be a busy one for partner clubs with 13 targeting this exciting fixture to come as a group. So far we are hoping for a big turn out from the following clubs:

Barnet
Bishop's Stortford
Chess Valley
Dunstablians
Harpenden
Harrow
Hemel Hempstead
Hertford

O A s
Royston
Stevenage
Tabard
Tring
Watford

Tickets are available through each of these clubs who have targeted this match. Alternatively you can ring up the ticket office on 01923 475222 or buy through www.saracens.com.

CLUB PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Coaching the Coaches

Saracens are running three 'coach the coaches' sessions over the season for members of our local Partner Clubs. The aim of these sessions is to help develop coaches' knowledge and understanding of different areas of the game, and show how this can be passed on to players in the most appropriate manner. The first of these sessions was held recently and helped coaches with Turnover ball, looking at its importance in the game situation, how to react to it and why. This was all covered in a theory session at the University of Hertfordshire's new Sports Village, and was followed by an observation session, where the coaches got to see the academy players being coaches the same principles.

We will also be holding another two coach the coaches sessions later in the year:

1. Tuesday 25th January – Herts Sports Village – 7.00-8.30pm – CONTINUITY
2. Tuesday 8th March – Herts Sports Village – 7.00-8.30pm – *TOPIC TBC*

To book your place onto these sessions please email davehesketh@saracens.net with your name and which partner club you are linked to.

Coaches' Open Day

The next coaches open day will be held on Tuesday 21st December. This is your opportunity to see the Saracens squad train as they prepare for their Boxing Day fixture against NEC Harlequins. As it is the school holidays we are also happy to invite young players (U12 and above only) to attend with their parents. ALL young players MUST be accompanied by a parent/guardian, and it must be made clear that this will not be an opportunity to meet the players, but to watch the training session and try to pick up a few tips from the professionals.

There are only limited places available to members of our partner clubs. To book up please email davehesketh@saracens.net

Masterclass Coaching

Keep an eye out for details of our next course over the February half term 2005 on Saracens website: <http://www.saracens.com/community/masterclass.php>.

For more information call Dave Hesketh on 01923 475231.

Sarrie's Squad <http://www.saracens.com/sarries/news.php>

If you have yet to pick up your Sarrie's Squad ball there are a number of forthcoming games which you can exchange your initial FREE ticket for and pick it up.

FORTHCOMING HOME GAMES (at Vicarage Road):

Saracens v Overmach Parma – Sunday 12th December

Into the second round of the European Challenge Cup, Saracens will be taking on Italian team Overmach Parma. The Men in Black will be looking to get through this round and on to the real business end of the tournament where the quarter finals will be played in early January.

Tickets are on sale now from Saracens or through the following partner clubs who are attending this fixture as one of their targeted games: Hertford RFC, Fullerians RFC, Harrow RFC and Stockwood park RFC.

Also home games coming soon:

Saracens v Newcastle Falcons – weekend of 17-19th December

Saracens v NEC Harlequins – Boxing Day (Sun 26th December).

NEWS FROM THE TRAINING GROUND

Vyvyan celebrates his first cap in style...

Congratulations to Saracens captain **Hugh Vyvyan** who got his first cap on Saturday at Twickenham as England faced Canada.

Hugh's long awaited moment, after leading England A for the last two years, came in the 65th minute of England's 70-0 victory as he came on as a second half substitute and he topped it with a try on his debut scoring the final points of the match.

Saracens duo make England Sevens shortlist...

Saracens backrow duo **Ben Skirving** and **Ben T Russell** have been included in the reduced England 7s Squad ahead of the forthcoming IRB World Sevens Series Tournaments in Dubai and South Africa.

England 7s coach Mike Friday has chosen a squad of 18 players for a training camp on 22nd and 23rd November which will then be reduced to a squad of 12 ahead of the tournaments in December.

Friday said, "We have an excellent mix of experience and exciting up and coming talent within this group. This is a new era for England 7s with so many new players competing for their place, and an important part of the elite player pathway. It is going to be extremely difficult to choose the final 12 later this month but the quality of the talent available to us will guarantee that we travel to Dubai and George with an extremely strong and prepared team."

England, who are currently ranked second in the World, face a tough start to the Series which begins in Dubai on 2nd December where they meet France, Scotland and Uganda. The squad will then travel to George in South Africa where they face Australia, Kenya and Ireland.