



SARACENS

NOTES

Whenever I go down to play Gloucester at cricket each Summer my club nearly always get the better of the West Country boys, but when the talk of cricket dies down in the bar after, the conversation edges round to rugby and the boot is invariably on the other foot.

That means hearing how magnificent Gloucester were the previous season, how magnificent they will be the next season, and how its their 'second XV' that often beat Saracens. No matter what I say would alter their loyal opinions.

It all typifies how Gloucester people eat, drink, and breath rugby, their side is without parallel in the country.

Perhaps there's a lesson for the England team and the support we give them.

A tremor shuddered through Gloucester when they were knocked out of the John Player Cup by Richmond. Their performance that day was disappointing and since then a marked improvement has been shown with three significant changes in the side. They also handed New Zealand tourists Taranaki their biggest defeat of their tour, 18-6.

The three changes are that prop forward Phil Blakeaway, who was advised by doctors never to play again, has made a telling comeback, and David Poynton and Chris Williams have strengthened the backs.

Gloucester will be fielding a near full-strength side with second row John Orwin, playing for the RAF, the only regular missing. Five full internationals are in their side, with six others who have represented their country at under-23 or B team level.

But it is one of their non-internationals, winger Bob Clewes, who could snatch the glory today and write a page in Gloucester's history books. He needs one try to break the 60-year-old try-scoring record of 236 held by the late Arthur Hudson.

Saracens task is certainly formidable, especially as they also have to overcome the psychological barrier of losing the last five matches.

However, their performance at Bedford last Saturday was certainly credit-worthy. Never a happy hunting ground for Saracens, they did particularly well to hold the home team to a 4-0 scoreline which they came close to overhauling. The most outstanding feature of their game was the superb scrummaging that at times pushed Bedford back yards.

Today, second row Gordon Morris returns to the first team, while in the backs their is a doubt in the centre where either Tim Smithers or Laurence Williams will line up alongside Peter Worsfold. If Smithers plays it will be his last game of the season as he will then be off to the West Indies for a cricket tour (lucky chap!).

All Saracens thoughts are now being directed towards winning the London Scottish match on April 7th which is essential if they are to qualify for next season's John Player Cup. A victory is badly needed before then to boost the team's confidence and certainly a win today or next week at Coventry would do that.

Other important dates for your diary are the EGM on Wednesday April 11th when the club captains, etc. are elected and the Race Night on Thursday April 19th.

CHRIS JOHNSON,
Weekly Herald.

TEAS CAN BE OBTAINED IN THE PAVILION

AFTER THE GAME

SARACENS

v

GLOUCESTER

SATURDAY, 24th MARCH, 1979

KICK-OFF 3.00 p.m.

SARACENS		GLOUCESTER	
<i>(Black)</i>		<i>(Red & White)</i>	
15 PETER HAWKINS	<i>Full Back</i>	PETER BUTLER*	15
14 AL BOLLARD	<i>Right Wing</i>	BOB CLEWES	14
13 PETER WORSFOLD	<i>Right Centre</i>	RICHARD MOGG	13
12 TIM SMITHERS	<i>Left Centre</i>	DAVE POYNTON	12
11 PHIL TIDDY	<i>Left Wing</i>	LEWIS DICK*	11
10 MAURICE COTTER	<i>Stand-Off</i>	CHRIS WILLIAMS*	10
9 CHRIS MILFORD	<i>Scrum-Half</i>	PETER KINGSTON*	9
1 ROD FAIRCLOTH (capt.)	<i>Prop</i>	GORDON SARGENT	1
2 STEVE JONES	<i>Hooker</i>	STEVE MILLS	2
3 CLINT MCGREGOR	<i>Prop</i>	PHIL BLAKEAWAY	3
4 GORDON MORRIS	<i>Second Row</i>	STEVE BOYLE	4
5 ANDY JASZCZAK	<i>Second Row</i>	ADRIAN TURTON	5
6 JIM TEMPERLEY	<i>Wing Forward</i>	JOHN WATKINS (capt.)*	6
8 DON HARRIGAN	<i>Lock Forward</i>	JOHN SIMONETT	8
7 JOHN MCGURK	<i>Wing Forward</i>	PAUL WOOD	7
REPLACEMENTS:		REPLACEMENTS:	
16 A. N. OTHER		EDDIE ROONEY	16
17 ANDRE PAPALOIZOU		CHRIS NEUSCWANDER	17

**International*

Referee: M. K. FRARY (London Society)

NEXT HOME GAME :

SARACENS CRUSADERS

v

BARNET

SATURDAY, 31st MARCH, 1979

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Mitre Rugby Balls—Saracens choice