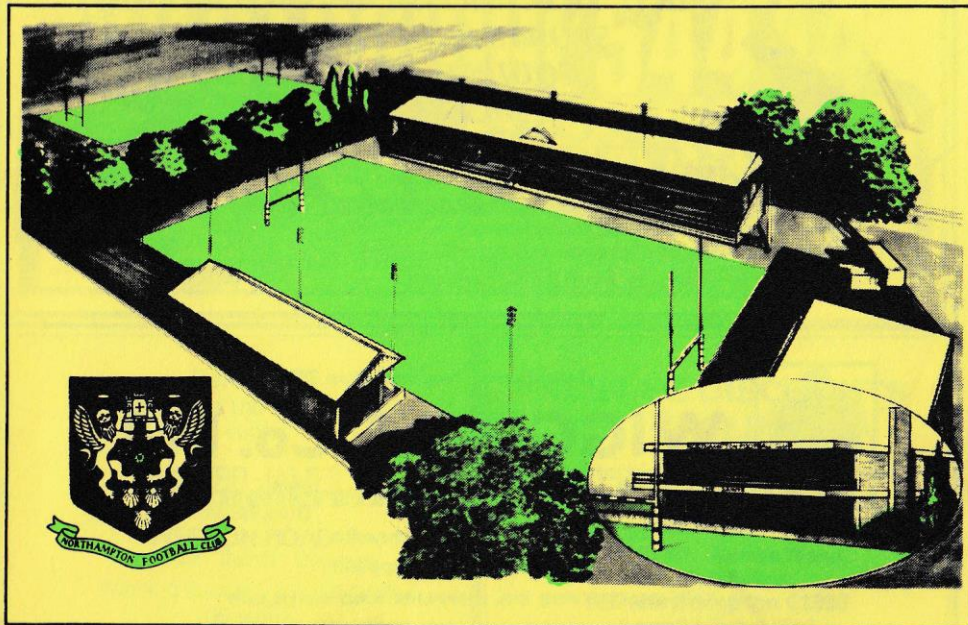


29/2/1980
v Gloucester

NORTHAMPTON FOOTBALL CLUB

AFFILIATED TO THE RUGBY UNION

THE SAINTS



FRANKLIN'S GARDENS, WEEDON ROAD, NORTHAMPTON

Centenary Year 1979-80

Official Programme — 15p — (Minimum price)
(Donation to Saints Supporter's Club)

CLUB NOTES

Saints bid tonight to end a long losing run against the mighty men of Gloucester that stretches back to the mid-1970's.

Not since 1973-74 season have the Saints managed to put one over Gloucester, and then they only edged home 17 pts. - 15.

The Westcountrymen have won the previous four clashes between the two sides, three of them at Kingsholme. That trio of wins has seen Gloucester amass 119 pts. while the Saints could muster a mere 20 in reply.

But, fortified by last Saturday's win over Fylde, the Saints will be out to put the record straight against the John Player Cup quarter-finalists.

And good news from Kingsholme is that their two-England front row reserves are expected to play tonight. Prop Gordon Sargent and Steve Mills go the go-ahead from England chairman of selectors Budge Rogers to join the national squad week-end tomorrow.

Phil Blakeway, who rested the England tight head role from Saints Gary Pearce is recovering from a pulled rib cartilage. He has played only three games for Gloucester this season, so the club's regular Alan Brooks will prop down against Bobbie Smith.

Tonights clash against the pride of the West has all the makings of a titanic battle up front as Smith, Jon Raphael and Pearce try to make a point.

Gloucester's strength of course lies in their pack with apart from their superb front row, people like John Fidler, Steve Boyle and John Watkins about.

But they aren't that short of talent in the backs, with young Steve Baker dispossessing last season's England scrum-half Peter Kingston and Richard Mogg providing pace and strength in the centre. Peter Butler, though, is finding his full-back role coming under pressure from Ian Wilkins who played for Gloucester in the mid-week game against Newport.

The Saints have left their backs unchanged, but Vince Cannon returns at No. 8, Geoff Wright is recalled to lock while Smith is available again at prop.

The game has been brought forward tonight because of tomorrow's live screening of the internationals.

Finally, let us extend a warm welcome to the Gloucester players, officials and supporters.

TERRY MORRIS.

Gloucester first played Northampton in 1899, Northampton were "exceptionally smart behind, but beaten forward".

From my experience with Gloucester, Northampton have always been a well balanced side, hard to beat but a pleasure to play against and a pleasure to watch.

Some interesting details from the past, record that, in 1901 the match was abandoned due to the death of Queen Victoria but that the Northampton side included a W. G. Grace Junior, a name not unfamiliar in Gloucester and an equally illustrious name in Northampton of White, E. W. I hasten to add, not D.F.!

I always remember the kindness of Dr. Sturtridge in making my regimental side welcome to Northampton in the early days of the war.

As a Canon of Gloucester, it seems appropriate that I should pay homage to the "Saints", and wish you every success in the future and that you may continue to hold that respect and position in Rugby Football which the quality of good play and the outlook of your club has earned, over the last 100 years.

H. MERVYN HUGHES,
President Gloucester R.F.C.

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from

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29th FEBRUARY, 1980
Kick-off: 7.30 p.m.

The Ball for this game has been donated by:
SHELL CHEMICALS (U.K.) LTD.

SAINTS

Colours: Black, Green and Gold.

- 15 P. CARTER
- 14 K. PARKER
- 13 J. E. DESBOROUGH
- 12 P. BIGNELL
- 11 P. T. McGUICKIAN
- 10 J. G. CUBITT
- 9 J. J. PAGE (Captain)
- 1 R. J. E. SMITH
- 2 J. A. G. D. RAPHAEL
- 3 G. S. PEARCE
- 4 C. FOLWELL
- 5 G. C. WRIGHT
- 6 S. J. RUSSELL
- 8 V. G. M. CANNON
- 7 G. WILCOX

Replacements: J. E. SURGUY,
N. M. J. FOX

Full Back

Right Wing

Left Wing

Fly Half

Scrum Half

Forwards

Referee:

Mr. P. J. Wakefield
(London
Society)

GLOUCESTER

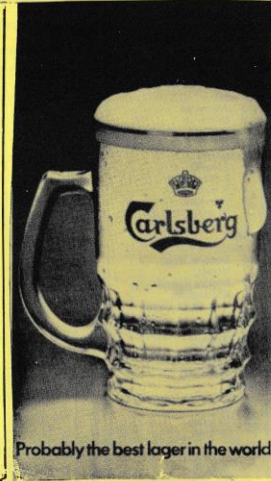
Colours: Cherry and White hoops.

- 15 I. WILKINS
- 14 R. CLEWES (Captain)
- 13 I. MOGG
- 12 D. POINTON
- 11 P. TUNSTALL
- 10 B. RUSSELL
- 9 P. KINGSTON
- 1 G. SARGENT
- 2 S. MILLS
- 3 A. BROOKS
- 4 S. BOYLE
- 5 J. FIDLER
- 6 J. WATKINS
- 8 M. TEAGUE
- 7 J. HAINES

Replacements: S. BAKER,
F. REED

Today's Match was kindly sponsored by:
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Next Home Game: ISIDRO (Argentina)
Sunday, 9th March, 1980. K.O. 3.00 p.m.



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