Tonight's Match Sponsor:
THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND

NEWPORT
v
GLOUCESTER

TUESDAY, 2nd MARCH 1993
KICK-OFF 7.00 p.m.

ANSELLS
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WELCOME, THE CHERRY PICKERS . . .

Gloucester are one of the oldest and most respected rugby clubs in the country. The number of famous and talented players who have turned out for the "Cherry Pickers", as the West Country club are affectionately known on account of their colours, runs into four figures. Throughout the years a stream of them have appeared in international rugby, and they still have some current caps in their team.

Among the famous personalities who readily spring to mind are are that great forward, the much capped Tom Voyce, Harold Boughton, Mike Burton, Graham Parker, George Hastings, A.D. (Bumps) Carpenter, Peter Ford, John Watkins, Peter Hordern (who also played for Newport), Don Rutherford (now the Rugby Union's technical director), and, of course, that little Welshman, Willie Jones.

Both Parker and Jones were also first-class cricketers — the former for Cambridge University and Gloucestershire, and the latter for Glamorgan, for whom he scored many runs. Parker once scored a double century for Gloucestershire, for whom he later became secretary, and on the rugby field he kicked 19 points for England in their 1938 match with Ireland.

Gloucester have lost a number of top players to other clubs this season, much to the annoyance of their officials, some of whom have spoken out strongly against what they allege may have been more than gentle persuasion! Still, they again have a strong squad which includes Scottish internationals Ian Smith, their captain, and Peter Jones, England B caps David Sims and Neil Matthews, and England under-21 international Richard West.

West, who comes from Herefordshire and originally played for Moseley, and Sims have developed into one of the most effective second row partnerships in the Courage League. Sims has played for England B team four times, and last summer he went to New Zealand and played for King Country.

Among other prominent players in the Gloucester squad are the versatile Donald Caskie, Martin Roberts, a sound full back, Tom Smith a speedy wing, Marcus Hannaford, an astute scrum half, John Hawker, Damian Cummins and Paul Ashmead, to mention just a few.

At the moment, Gloucester are striving to retain their position in the top division of the Courage League, and the indications are that they will succeed in their objective, which will be a good thing for West Country rugby prestige!

WILLIS HUNTLEY