

4/12/54

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

(FOUNDED IN 1873)

**TO-DAY'S GAME IS VERSUS
NEATH**

(KICK-OFF 2-45 p.m.)

NEXT WEEK'S GAME:

Saturday : **BATH**

(Kick-off 2-45 p.m.)

POPULAR VISITORS



OUR Club has reason to be more than a little grateful to our Visitors to-day, the Welsh "All Blacks" from Neath. Last season, when bad weather enforced the cancellation of the January fixture at Kingsholm, Neath were very eager to arrange a later substituted date. We had lost earlier on at the Gnoll, but took revenge when the Welshmen came for an evening fixture in April. The City's record against Welsh Clubs so far this season has been a dismal one—perhaps to-day, especially after the heartening events at Arms Park a week ago, that run of ill-luck will end and we shall at long last perhaps, be able to win once again. Whatever happens, however we know Neath will put up a hard and skilful game and we look forward to some delightful football.

Official Programme : Price Threepence

GLOUCESTER HIPPODROME

PRESENTING THE LATEST ATTRACTIONS on the
GIANT ALL-PURPOSE SCREEN
ALL CinemaScope Productions in FULL STEREOGRAPHIC SOUND

GLOUCESTER (RED and WHITE)

TO-DAY'S REFEREE

Mr. R. J. DEAN (Warwickshire)

THE FIRST AID SERVICE ON THIS GROUND IS VOLUNTARILY PROVIDED BY
THE CITY OF GLOUCESTER DIVISION ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE

FIRST XV. FIXTURES

Played 14 Won 5; Lost 8; Drawn 1; Points for 129; against 192

1954	Sept. 11	Lydney	...	...	H 11-0
	18	Moseley	...	...	H 32-3
	23	Cheltenham	...	...	H 5-3
	25	Bristol	...	...	A 20-20
	30	Stroud	...	...	H 11-8
	Oct. 2	Bedford	...	...	H 6-6
	9	Richmond	...	...	H 6-18
		(Glos. v. Cornwall, Bristol)	...	...
	16	Newport	...	...	A 0-10
	23	Coventry	...	...	H 5-8
		(Glos. v. Devon, in Devon)	...	...
	30	Oxford University	...	...	A 3-27
	Nov. 6	Leicester	...	...	A 6-13
	13	Moseley	...	...	A 11-21
		(Glos. v. Som., Kingsholm)	...	...
	20	Aberavon	...	...	H 3-16
	27	Cardiff	...	...	A 8-9
	Dec. 4	Neath	...	...	H
	11	Bath	...	...	H
	18	Coventry	...	...	A
	27	O.M.T.'s.	...	...	H
	28	U.A.U.	...	...	H

NEATH

(BLACK with White Maltese Cross)

Full Back

1 *V. EVANS

Three-quarters

2 C. ROBERTS R.W.

3 J. O'SULLIVAN R.C.

4 G. ROBERTS L.C.

5 K. MADDOCKS L.W.

Half Backs

6 J. WEAVER O.H.

7 G. THOMAS S.H.

Forwards

8 *C. MEREDITH

9 R. JENKINS

10 D. THOMAS

11 *R. JOHN

12 J. MEREDITH

13 *B. SPARKES

14 *R. STEPHENS

15 H. THOMAS

* Internationals.

To-Night

CinemaScope with FULL STEREOGRAPHIC SOUND
TONY CURTIS JANET LEIGH DAVID FARRAR
THE BLACK SHIELD OF FALWORTH
also Lex Barker, Mala Powers (Tech.) (u)
THE YELLOW MOUNTAIN (Tech.) (u)

Next Week

GREGORY PECK
WIN MIN THAN
THE PURPLE PLAIN (Tech.) (a)
also Eugenius Chylek, Sydney Tafler
JOHNNY ON THE RUN (a)

CONGRATULATIONS, SKIPPER

EVERY member of the Club and indeed, all associated with Rugby locally, will wish George Hastings, Gloucester's skipper, the best of luck in the first English Trial at Falmouth to-day. George is a very sterling front row forward, and we were all delighted when we heard he was to have his chance to-day. We hope he will have a "blinder" and that he will be one of those who make the grade in the building up of England's pack for this year's Internationals. George has been playing for Gloucester ever since one appearance with the United in season 1949-50. He thus has a wealth of first-class rugger experience and his grand performances and his dash in loose play will we trust take him to the highest honours in the game.

A MAGNIFICENT PERFORMANCE

GLoucester came back to form with a vengeance against Cardiff and very strikingly refuted the "Black Bridge" myth. What was more important was the team showed that its detractors were wrong and we hope the home side will get a rousing reception when they come on to Kingsholm to-day to take on no mean opponents in Neath.

Let there be no mistake—the game at Cardiff was no fluke result—every newspaper critic at the week-end sang unanimous praises of Gloucester's mastery of the conditions and were also of the firm opinion that if the City had won, they would have deserved to do so.

Further, the luck did not run very much our way. Here is how one writer described it: "In the space of three minutes Michael Baker had a try disallowed, hit the upright with a penalty kick and only just failed to convert a try in the corner."

IT DID NOT WORK

ANOTHER writer paid full tribute to the Gloucester forwards and stated that Sid Judd's tactical plan—one of setting his scrum either 3-2-3 (when they had the advantage) or 3-4-1 (to give their flankers more scope when the reverse was true). But, said this reporter, it didn't work on Saturday.

To-day, facing Neath, we are without George Hastings, but the knowledge of the fact that they came within an ace of making football history a week ago must have revitalised the Gloucester men. Let us give them all the encouragement to-day that we can.

A VERY CAPABLE SIDE

IN writing all that, we shall not make the mistake to-day of underestimating the strength of the men from Neath. They have won nine of their 17 matches to date, and have lost three only, the other five being drawn. They have scored 170 points to 100 by their opponents. We must not forget, too, their brilliant performance last Saturday when they went to the Rectory Field and defeated Blackheath by 14 points to 5. That alone is sufficient to show Neath's high quality and so the stage is set for what should be a great struggle—if the elements are kind!

SCORERS TO DATE

GLoucester's 129 points so far this season have been scored by the following players: Michael Baker 29 points; R. Blair 22; T. Jones 21; R. Sutton, David Jones, P. Ford and D. Ibbotson 9 each; and G. Hastings, C. Thomas, H. Terrington, R. Amos, D. Hill, G. Connell and Glynn Williams 3 each.

The only player to have appeared in all the City's games is Bob Hodge.