

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1984

NEW-LOOK TEST FOR GLOUCESTER

NOTTINGHAM SET NEW STANDARDS

Gloucester will face a vastly improved Nottingham side at Kingsholm tomorrow night.

"They are having a better-than-average season and will present us with a good challenge," said Gloucester team secretary Mike Nicholls.

The Cherry and Whites have not been so impressive of late.

Nicholls admitted last weekend's defeat at Bath was "very disappointing," but said a disruption to fixtures due to the bad weather had not helped preparations.

But Kingsholm will still field a strong side against Nottingham despite the absence of Phil Blakeway and Steve Mills – both on international duty against Ireland on Saturday.

Gloucester will need that strength, Nottingham have not lost since December 10 and are through to the fourth round of the John Player Cup.

The Cherry and Whites make just one change from the team that played Auckland on Tuesday. Kevin White comes in for Mills.

Among an impressive list of scalps for Nottingham this season were Gloucester's rivals, Bristol, who succumbed 21-16 at Ireland-ave.

"That was one of the better quality matches," said Nottingham official Jeffrey Addison. "There was some excellent football by both sides.

Although Nottingham have won only once at Kingsholm, that was way back in 1973 on their first visit, they are confident and see no reason why a second victory cannot be added.

"Although Kingsholm has not always been a happy hunting ground for us, we have tasted success once and can do it again. Any team that wins at Kingsholm is worthy of applause." said Addison.

Nottingham's only doubts concern scrum-half Kieran Murphy. He was injured in last night's student international at Cinderford.

Gloucester (v. Nottingham, home 7.00 pm): P. Webb; D. Morgan, R. Mogg, P. Taylor, N. Price; M. Hamlin, S. Baker (capt.); M. Preedy, K. White, R. Pascall, J. Orwin, J. Fidler, J. Gadd, M. Teague, D. Spencer. Reprs.: S. Parsloe, M. Longstaff.

Nottingham: G. Hartley; S. Holdstock, T. Bennett, M. Northard, D. Holdstock; S. Hodgkinson, K. Murphy; J. Ward, B. Moore, M. Grindle, P. Nixon, N. Mantell, P. Cook (capt.), G. Rees, G. Stokes. Reprs.: P. Thornley, D. Bowyer.