



## Focus on the Opposition



Gloucester Club was founded in 1873 and soon became one of the powerhouses of English rugby. For the first 18 years, Gloucester played on The Spa cricket ground, but were evicted in early 1891 after putting salt on the frozen ground to enable a match to go ahead - the salt seriously damaged the grass, which did not please the cricket club! A few years earlier, thousands of spectators caused considerable damage when Gloucester played its first-ever evening match under floodlights

floodlights.
In 1891 the club moved into its "new" ground, Kingsholm. And since moving, Gloucester has built-up, over the past 90 seasons (the club closed down during the two World Wars), a record that is the envy of sports clubs all over the world.

Gloucester's home record since 1891 shows an astonishing overall winning record of 77.31 percent, making Kingsholm one of the toughest sports grounds in the world for a visiting team to claim a win. In terms of scoring, Gloucester have posted nearly 40,000 points, with opponents scoring a mere 17,000 points.

Only once in history has Gloucester had a losing season at Kingsholm. In 1895/96, Gloucester only won six of the seventeen matches played a Kingsholm. Seven were lost and six were drawn to give a 47.06 percent winning record.

winning record.

Perhaps the highest profile current Gloucester player is tighthead prop Phil Vickery who now virtually "owns" the England number 3 jersey. Also in Clive Woodward's England squad is Trevor Woodman who waits patiently on the bench for the loosehead prop to get injured. Other capped England internationals in the Gloucester team include forwards Neil McCarthy, Steve Ojomoh and Rob Fidler and winger Tom Beim.

The 1999-2000 season captain is Kingsley Jones, who returns from an ankle injury picked up at the end of last year, only weeks after moving to Kingsholm from Ebbw Vale. Jones has many Wales appearances behind him - and he has captained Wales on one occasion. He is a natural leader on the field and also takes his off the field responsibilities very seriously. Gloucester is coached by the former French

Gloucester is coached by the former French captain and legendary winger Philippe Saint André. He was appointed player/coach early in 1999 after the club parted company with Richard Hill, the director of Rugby. The Frenchman had already endeared himself to Kingsholm's Shed, rugby's equivalent to Anfield's Kop in soccer. Saint-André has become a big hero in Gloucester - almost as revered as he is in his native France.

As a player, Saint-André's career is effectively over. He keeps fit and has been known to turn out occasionally for Gloucester's "United" team, describing himself as "Gloucester's

seventh choice winger"!

Among the capped overseas players is the legendary All Black lock lan Jones. Other capped overseas internationals include Terry Fanolua and Junior Paramore (both Samoa), Richard Tombs (Australia) and Simon Mannix (All Blacks).

Gloucester was the first winner of the Tetley's Bitter Cup, England's premier knockout competition. But in the Allied Dunbar Premiership, a title has been elusive. The Cheltenham & Gloucester Cup was won by Gloucester in its inaugural season, as was the short-lived Worthington Tens competition. Gloucester retained the Cheltenham & Gloucester Cup in its second season.

## Today's Teams



The Falcont			
		CHANGES	
15	Pete Massey		
	Michael Wood		
13	Jamie Noon		
12	Tom May		
11	Inga Tuigamala		
10	Jonny Wilkinson		
9	Gary Armstrong (C)		
1	lan Peel		
2	Richie Horton		
3	Marius Hurter		
4	Doddie Weir		
5	Stuart Grimes		
6	Steve O'Neill		
7	Richard Arnold		
8	Ross Beattie		
SUBS			
16	Hall Charlton		
17	David Walder		
18	Mike Howe		
19	Hugh Vyvyan		
	Micky Ward		
21	Jimmy Cartmell		

Referee: BRIAN CAMPSALL (RFU)

22 Martin Shaw

Touch Judges: JOHN BARNARD (RFU) BARRY OLDHAM (RFU)

15 Byron Hayward			
14 Chris Catling			
13 Joe Ewens			
12 Chris Yates			
11 Brian Johnson			
10 Simon Mannix			
9 Elton Moncrieff			
1 Trevor Woodman			
2 Jawad Djoudi			
3 Phil Vickery			
4 Rob Fidler			
5 Ian Jones			
6 Junior Paramore			
7 Kingsley Jones (C)			
8 Steve Ojomoh			
SUBS			
16 Adam Eustace			
17 Andrew Hazell			
18 Rob Jewell			

Half Time Score

Full Time Score

