

Sponsored by



Saracens

Football Club (RFU)

120TH SEASON

1995 - 1996

Saturday 4th November 1995 2.30pm

SARACENS v GLOUCESTER



FOCUS ON OUR VISITORS

Gloucester R.F.C.

'May you live in interesting times', runs the ancient Chinese curse, the idea being that times which are interesting to read about are hell to live through.

I wouldn't go quite that far, where Gloucester are concerned, but the times are certainly interesting enough for most supporters' taste. To start with, the two most influential characters in the cherry-and-white contingent today won't be on the field at all. Chief Executive, Mike Coley, and Director of Coaching, Richard Hill, weren't on the Kingsholm scene at all this time last season, and who in their right mind could have foreseen Gloucester's destiny being largely in the hands of a *Harlequin* and a man from *Bath*? It's about like Denis Skinner signing registration forms for the National Front.

On the field, times have certainly been interesting so far. While the side certainly has potential, efforts to turn it into points haven't really borne fruit. The season's nadir came at Orrell, where Gloucester turned in an abysmal display, and deserved the beating they got. Since then, improvement has been steady and significant. There has been no flamboyant breakthrough, and nor is there likely to be, but week-by-week signs of a genuine, lasting renaissance have become inexorably more obvious. Before long, someone is going to suffer, and with all the respect in the world, it could be today.

Gloucester has always had the pride and the passion to shake any opposing side – ask Leicester and Bath last season – but in this day and age, it doesn't substitute for sheer talent.

There is plenty of that in the Gloucester side, if only it will start expressing itself. Saracens supporters won't need any introduction to the likes of skipper, Dave Sims, winger/centre, Paul Holford, or bubbling Scottish wing forward, Ian Smith. There are, however, a few less familiar names it might be worth looking out for.

At the time of writing, the Gloucester side hasn't been selected, and the injury list is something of a problem, but the side could well include, for example, No.8, Chris Raymond who has a considerable physical presence, as well as an innate ability to read a game. He's no Mike Teague yet, but watch this space.



Hooker, Phil Greening could be a name to conjure with in the future. Excellent judges have already pencilled him in as a potential England player, and anyone who can take one against the head from Brian Moore on his own line has to be taken seriously. Then there's Rob Fidler, son of the mighty John, who is coming along nicely too.

There is also a whole clutch of players who haven't quite made it to the League side yet, but are certainly knocking on the door. Among the backs, watch out for Fenwick (yes, *that* Fenwick family), Lloyd and Beim. Promising forwards include Yorke and Bullock.

All in all, you mustn't write off Gloucester yet. But then when was it ever safe to do so?

Peter Arnold
Gloucester R.F.C.



SARACENS

BLACK

Saturday 4th November 1995 2.30pm

GLOUCESTER

CHERRY & WHITE.

15	Andy Tunningley	Full Back
14	Martin Gregory	Right Wing
13	John Buckton*	Centre
12	Steve Ravenscroft	Centre
11	Peter Harries	Left Wing
10	Andy Lee	Fly-Half
9	Brian Davies (Capt)	Scrum-Half
1	Richard Andrews	Prop
2	Gregg Botterman	Hooker
3	Garry Holmes	Prop
4	Mark Langley	Second Row
5	Mark Burrow	Second Row
6	John Green	Flanker
7	Richard Hill	Flanker
8	Anthony Diprose	Number Eight
Replacements		
16	Philip Friel	
17	Charles Olney	
18	Craig Yandell	

Lee Osborne	15
Paul Holford	14
Martin Roberts	13
Don Caskie	12
Tim Smith	11
Martin Kimber	10
Bruce Fenley	9
Tony Windo	1
Phil Greening	2
Andy Martin	3
Simon Devereux	4
Dave Sims (Capt)	5
Rob Fidler	6
Ian Smith *	7
Chris Raymond	8
Replacements	
Warwick Bullock	16
Pete Miles	17
Mark Nicholson	18

*denotes International

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee:
E.F. Morrison
(R.F.U. Bristol Society)

Touch Judges:
A. Ellison (R.F.U.) &
M.J. Ramsden (R.F.U.)

**Today's Gilbert
Match Ball is
sponsored by
Terry O'Connor**

**NEXT COURAGE
LEAGUE MATCH
AT HOME**

Saracens v Leicester

Saturday 11th
November 1995
(K.O. 2.30pm)

**NEXT 1st XV
AWAY GAME**

London Welsh v Saracens

Saturday 18th
November 1995
(K.O. 2.30pm)

**FOR THE LATEST CLUB
NEWS RING**

**Saracens Hotline
0891 12 11 37**

Calls charged at 39p per minute cheap
rate, 49p per minute at all other times.