

THE CITIZEN

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1984

GADD RETURNS FOR GLO'STER

Flanker John Gadd returns to the Gloucester team for tomorrow's match against Loughborough University at Kingsholm (7 pm), less than a month after fracturing a cheekbone against Abertillery.

The Cherry and Whites take the unusual step of pushing a player returning from injury straight into the senior action and team secretary Mike Nicholls explains: "We have Leicester coming to Kingsholm on Saturday and that is obviously a big game for us. We want John Gadd to prove he is ready for that match.

"It means Jeremy Bennett, who has been playing exceptionally well, has to be left out.

"But there are a number of players under the microscope against Loughborough. There is so much competition for places in various positions we have to make sure our selection is spot on for the Leicester game.

"On the wing, even with Andy Richards injured, we have Jim Breeze, Nick Price and Derrick Morgan all worthy of a game. Morgan misses out and he is desperately unlucky because he has been in top form."

Hooker Steve Mills is still a couple of weeks away from fitness after injuring his neck while playing for England against Australia, while fit-again Phil Blakeway was not considered.

"Phil has not played yet this season," says Nicholls. "He ought to have an outing with United first."

Mike Teague, John Orwin and Richard Pascall all return against Loughborough after being on County duty at the weekend, while Peter Wickenden is given another chance at full-back.

Tim Smith has been in marvellous form averaging 15 points a game this season and that has restricted Wickenden's first team chances.

Gloucester: P. Wickenden; J. Breeze, R. Mogg, P. Taylor, N. Price; M. Hamlin, M. Hannaford; P. Jones, K. White, R. Pascall, J. Orwin (capt.), J. Brain, J. Gadd, M. Teague, Ian Smith.

Replacements: R. Wood, G. Mann.

Loughborough University have been in tremendous form this season, earning wins against Harlequins 16-13, Rosslyn Park 14-9, New Brighton 33-7 and Middlesbrough last Saturday 19-13.

JC