

# THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1985

## BACK ON THE GLORY TRAIL

Gloucester go into their first John Player Cup tie for more than two years tomorrow determined to extend an unbeaten home run stretching back 15 matches.

After two disastrous John Player seasons – they lost at home to London Welsh in 1983 and failed to qualify for the last competition – the Cherry and Whites are aiming for a return to the glory days.

Coach Bob Redwood believes Gloucester, who have won the trophy three times, are ready for a long cup run and says: "At Kingsholm we are a good side and the home draw against Richmond suits us fine.

"If we can win tomorrow and cup luck goes with us we are in with an excellent chance against anybody."

Gloucester have scored a remarkable 469 points in their last 15 home matches at an average of almost 30 per game, and that could spell trouble for Richmond, who spend tonight in a Bristol hotel before making the short journey North tomorrow.

But who are the main obstacles to Gloucester's bid for a fourth John Player triumph ?

"Look out for London Welsh, Nottingham, Bristol and Bath," says Redwood. "If we don't make it, and I think we have a chance, then those four would be my tips for the semi-finals.

"Bristol obviously have a difficult job against Leicester away and they are not playing particularly well, but I would still back them."

Only five players from Gloucester's last Twickenham triumph go into tomorrow's third round tie.

The survivors from the team that drew 6-6 against Moseley in the final and shared the trophy are Paul Taylor, Richard Mogg, Malcolm Preedy, John Orwin and Mike Teague. Phil Blakeway, out of the side tomorrow, played in that final, while hooker Kevin White was among the replacements.

Centre Mogg was the only current player in the Gloucester team which won 6-3 against Leicester in the 1977-78 [John] Player Cup final.

The line up for the Cherry and Whites tomorrow is :

T. Smith; D. Morgan, P. Taylor, R. Mogg, N. Price; M. Hamlin, M. Hannaford; M. Preedy, K. White, R. Pascall, J. Orwin (capt.), J. Brain, J. Bennett, M. Teague, I. Smith.

JC