

THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1985

BURN'S DEBUT IN PLAYER CUP TIE

Gloucester lock Dick Burns is plunged into his first senior rugby match of the season tomorrow. Burns plays for Gloucester in their John Player Cup fourth round tie against Saracens at Kingsholm (3 p.m.).

He is given a chance because Gloucester skipper John Orwin is ruled out by 'flu. Orwin, who had shaken off a knee injury to report fit, had to drop out last night to leave the Cherry and Whites short in the second row.

With Nigel Scrivens suspended after being sent off in the match against Bristol away, Burn was the obvious choice.

Burn joined Gloucester this season and is an RAF serviceman at Brize Norton, where John Orwin is also based.

Burn is delighted at being awarded his debut for such an important match and said today: "I couldn't be happier. I've been selected a couple of times before, but the matches were cancelled.

"I can't wait to face Saracens."

He links up with John Brain at lock and they will have a tough time in the line-outs against tall Saracens second row men Andy Jazczak and Andy Wheeland. Jazczak is 6ft 5ins. tall and Wheeland 6ft 7ins.

The loss of Orwin, currently a first choice England player, is a major blow to Gloucester, but they should still be capable of crushing the challenge from the North London club Saracens.

With Phil Blakeway and Mike Teague, their other England men, back in action, Gloucester should be too strong for Saracens in the pack.

A place in Monday's quarter-final draw beckons and a big crowd is expected at Kingsholm.

The draw of Lydney against Sale at Regentsholme, also in the John Player Cup, will tempt Forest rugby followers away, but Gloucester secretary Terry Tandy says: "There should be a lot of people at Kingsholm and queues could develop at turnstiles.

"We will do our best to avoid it, but anybody coming along would help us by buying a ticket in advance. They will be available at the Kingsholm social club tonight or from 11 a.m. at the ground tomorrow."

There are no problems with the pitch and Tandy says: "It will be wet, but after the long lay-off due to the bad weather, the players won't mind that at all."

The clash with Saracens is Gloucester's fifth game of 1985 and they will be keen to hit winning form again after losing three of their last four matches.

All of the defeats came away, though, and Gloucester will point to their impressive home record of 17 matches without defeat.

Gloucester United face Rosslyn Park at the Civil Service ground in Gloucester tomorrow (12.30 pm).