



GLOUCESTER
V
NORTHAMPTON
SAINTS



Saturday 11
March 2000
Kick-off 2.00pm

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MATCHBALL SPONSOR

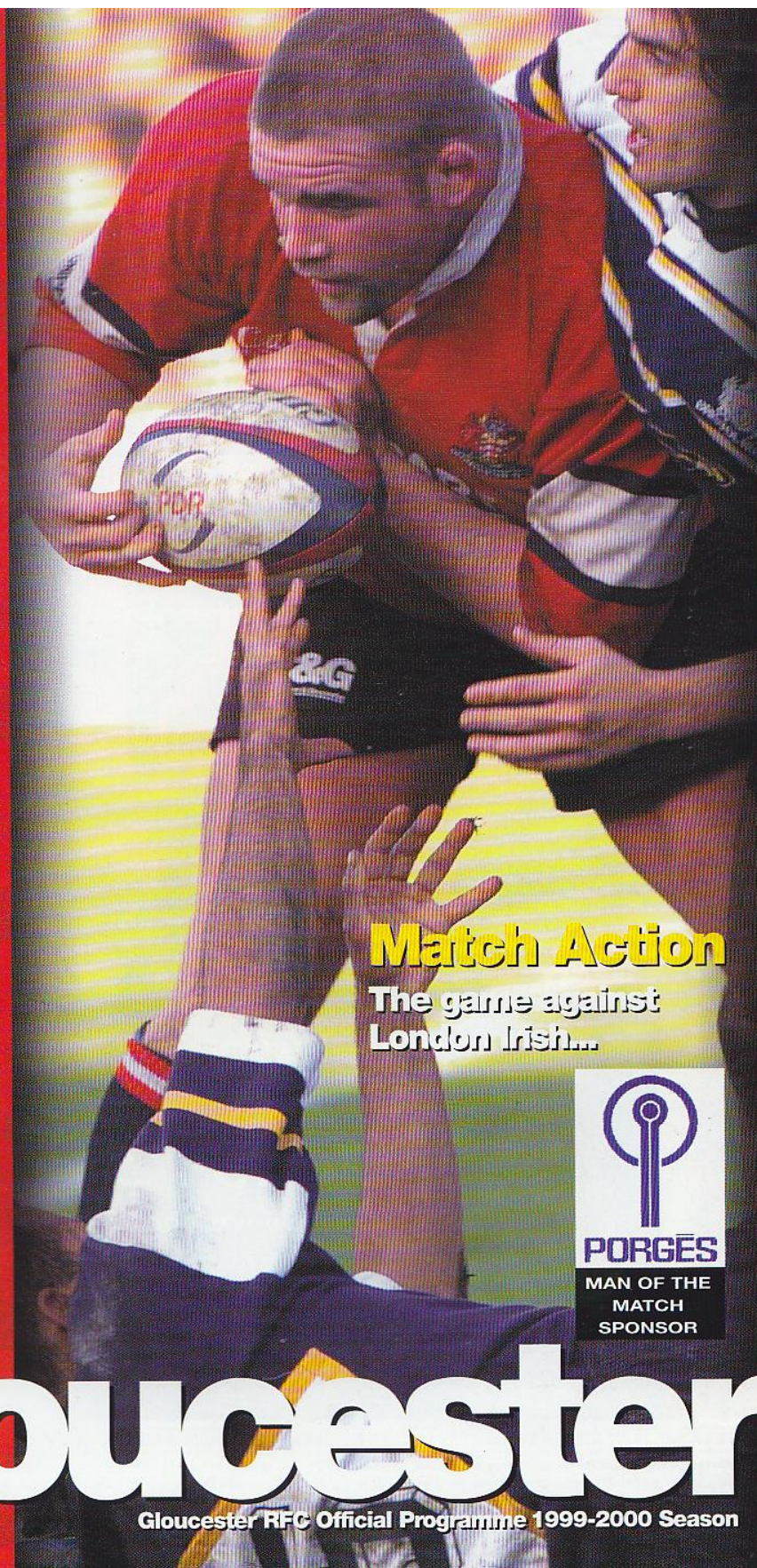
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TECHNOLOGY

MATCHDAY SPONSOR

Gloucester

Issue 13 - £2.00

Gloucester RFC Official Programme 1999-2000 Season



Match Action

The game against
London Irish...



PORGES

MAN OF THE
MATCH
SPONSOR

Welcome from The Editors

Dates for Diary

The Royal Air Force, who have adopted Kingsholm as their "home" ground, will be taking on Army here in the Willis Inter Services Championship on Wednesday March 29 - Kick-off is at 7.15pm.

Tickets for this match, in which our own Brian Johnson is expected to play for the Army, are now on sale at the ticket office priced at £10 grandstand or £5 ground.

The Royal Air Force's parachute display team, the Falcons, will again be "dropping in" (the things some people will do to get in free!) - that is of course subject to weather conditions.

Then, towards the end of April comes the culmination of the Gloucestershire Rugby Union's "Millennium Festival" for young players in five age groups up to Under 12's. The finals will be played over the weekend of Saturday April 22 and Sunday April 23 - the Saturday age-group finals will be played as a "curtain-raiser" to our home Allied Dunbar Premiership game against London Wasps. There will be more details in the programme for the Bath match.

They Liked It So Much ...

We welcome back today our friends from Chronos Technology Ltd. Earlier this season, they

sponsored a match and enjoyed the afternoon so much that they sponsored another just after Christmas. And they liked that so much that they are back for their third visit as match sponsors.

The company is locally-based in the Forest at the old hospital in Lydbrook and they provide technical solutions for various gizmos and whatchamecallits in the telecom industry.

All too technical for us, so we asked for a plain Gloucestershire-person's version of what Chronos is all about.

We are the UK's leading solutions provider of synchronisation systems for telecommunications networks. Clients include all of the major carriers licensed to operate in the UK and many international operators.

Many of the UK's major utilities are using a Chronos supplied VSAT system which provides a total data communications network over satellite including space segment rental and system management.

The Radio Division provides services for the line of sight radio market including tower design, equipment roll-out and testing, engineering re-work and complete solutions.

So, it's a pound to a penny that there is a Chronos Technology

"thingy" somewhere between Sky's production trucks in our car park and Sky Sports Centre in West London.



Please Give Generously

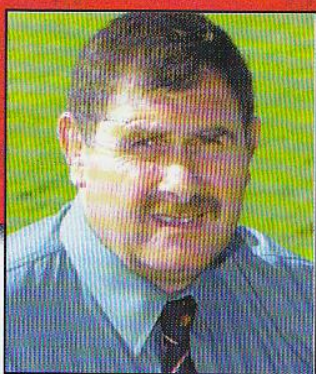
Did you spot "Elvis" at today's game? Jeremy Sutton and Helen Tinley, who are collecting today on behalf of the National Asthma Campaign, thought that donning the Elvis wigs would "make us more noticeable."

Jeremy and Helen, both from Bristol, are running the London Marathon 2000 on the April 16. They are hoping to raise £1500 for Asthma.

The National Asthma Campaign is the UK independent charity, working to conquer asthma through research, education and support.

Jeremy and Helen would like to thank Gloucester RFC and all their supporters for their kind donations and assistance in this project.

Jeremy Sutton has a special website for his marathon run. Point your browser to: www.gisagrape.fsnet.co.uk



Coach's Viewpoint

John Fidler

"I am sure that they will be taking us on up front and I think that the forward confrontation this afternoon will be very exciting - and very physical."

This is a very, very important games for us - we are top of the league at the moment and Northampton are sitting very close behind us in third place.

Quite simply, it is a game we not only have to win but also that we need to win. The Saints have been playing very well this season and they have had some very good wins away from home - they beat Wasps away and, as we know, it is very hard to beat Wasps at Loftus Road!

My view is that Northampton will not be too frightened at having to come to Kingsholm - they will be up for it. I am sure that they will be taking us on up front and I think that the forward confrontation this afternoon will be very exciting - and very physical.

This is where the game will be won and lost! And I, for one, am really looking forward to the game.

We had a very good win up at Franklin's Gardens early in the season. People gave us no hope to go there and win. But on that autumn Saturday afternoon, our first half performance was to me the best 40 minutes that we have played all season.

But today will we have to play as well as we did in October for 40 minutes, but for all 80 minutes.

An important aspect of this afternoon is you, the Gloucester supporter! I am sure that some of you will be almost hanging from the rafters!

And I know that there will be a lot of people here from Northampton to cheer on the Saints.

"No one needs reminding that Gloucester has to win today!."

No one needs reminding that Gloucester has to win today! And the players all know that they must not be complacent!

Kingsholm IS a fortress and, as far as we are concerned, no one is going to come here and win - and we do not want Northampton to be the first team today to win here this season.

True, we will have to pick ourselves up after the London Irish game, which was a very hard and physical game. You might be interested to know that on the way home, Ian Jones told me that the intensity of the Cup games against London Irish was more than many Super 12 matches.

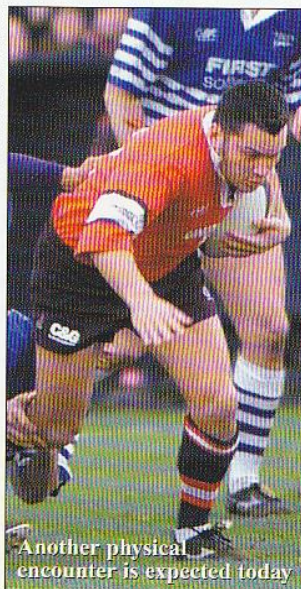
Some of the tackles and hits, the power and the pace could be

compared to many of the matches he has played in the Southern Hemisphere competition.

What this tell me is that the club game in the Allied Dunbar Premiership One is coming close to the standard of some international games.

But back to today it's going to be a great occasion. Our supports like going to Northampton and Northampton supporters like coming here!

This is a game between two clubs that are both striving to remain as true as possible to the traditional rugby club in the professional era.



Another physical encounter is expected today

Pity - But who needs it?

Peter Arnold

It is a shame we could not beat London Irish the other week, but personally, I am not all that fussed.

Much has been said – and written – about players playing out of position and the number of mistakes Gloucester made, and you'll have made up your own mind about that.

However, let's not take anything away from the Irish.

Quite frankly, they were the better team on the day. They played their tiny socks off, showed a great deal of flair and imagination, and in that mood, are going to take a lot of beating. Northampton – you have been warned, and yes, I do know that you've already beaten them twice this year.

One reason why I'm not all that disappointed is that I don't fancy this year's semi-final arrangements. I can't help the unworthy suspicion that someone Up There didn't fancy the possibility of playing such a highly charged game in front of the home supporters at either Kingsholm or Franklin's Gardens, but that's probably just me being cynical again.

To me the desired 'carnival', as it has been termed, simply doesn't seem like a rugby occasion. I've been considering what my own reactions would be.

If Gloucester were to play in the first of the two games, then if we won I'd be off to the bar to celebrate as soon as the final whistle blew. If we lost, then I wouldn't care a damn who won the second game, and would be off to the bar anyway.

If we were part of the second feature, then I probably wouldn't worry about getting into the ground until I'd had a few before Gloucester started their game. That, I suspect, is the way most right-minded rugby fans would see the situation. I doubt if they'll get 22,000 people to sit - or stand – through around four hours of rugby, particularly those of us who usually have our legs crossed by half time at the best of times. What do they think this is? The Super Bowl?

THEY THINK THEY HAVE PROBLEMS ?

No doubt the BBC Radio Gloucestershire commentators have occasional difficulties presented by the fact that we have two players named 'Jones' in the side: Kingsley and Ian of that ilk. Never mind chaps. Could be worse. You could be presenting the programme in Gwynedd.

I was fascinated to read that the side from Bala turned up to play the Cardiff club, Fairwater, with no fewer than twelve Jones's on the team sheet. Just to complicate things further, the home side included five Morgans.

Well, there's a thing, boyo.

EXTRA INCENTIVE

With the Premiership precariously in the balance, there's now an extra incentive (if one were needed) for Gloucester to come out top of the heap this season.

I note that the itinerary for the end-of-season Barbarians tour, led by the sainted Bob Dwyer, includes a game against the Premiership Champions. Until they came here to play the RAF last year, the Baa-Baas had not visited Kingsholm since around the turn of the last century. Now there's a very real chance that they will be back here in the Spring.

Bit like the bus company, really. You wait for ages, and then two come along at once.

'PHILLING' OUR CUP OF HAPPINESS

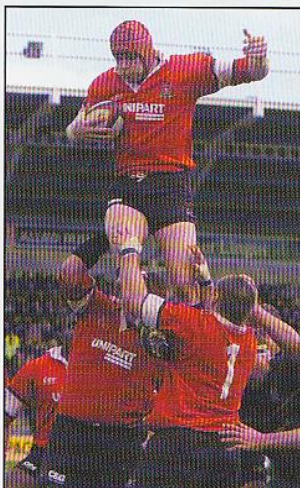
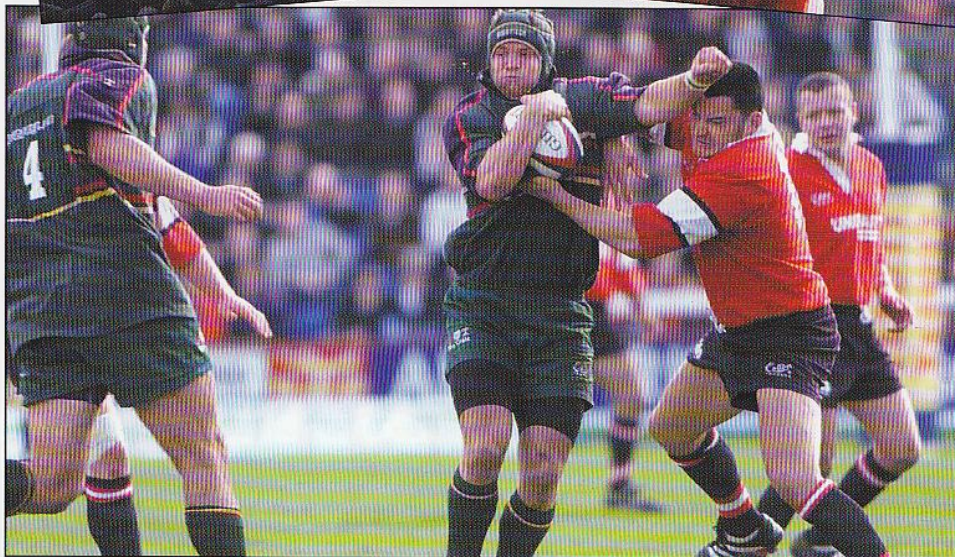
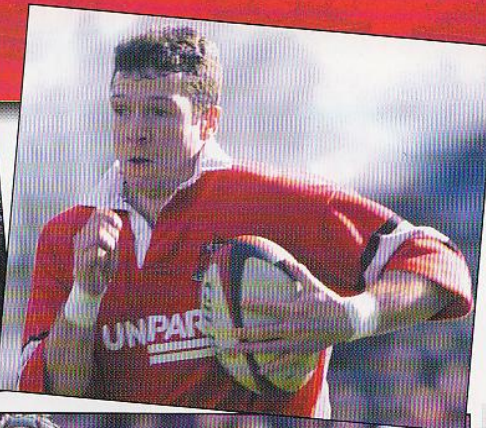
Phil Greening may be wearing Sale colours for the moment, but if you were to cut his leg off, you'd find 'GLAWSTER' written all the way through. That's why we were so delighted to watch his slightly incredible performance against Wales last Saturday.

And as for Phil Vickery ... I've seen 'em all: Hastings, Burton, Blakeway, Preedy, Sargent – but I have never seen a better set of England performances from a Gloucester prop forward in over half a century of supporting Gloucester.

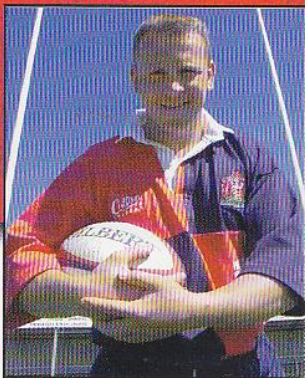
And we still have Trevor Woodman waiting in the wings.

Match Action

London Irish 34 - 18 Gloucester



Read The News And Air Your Views on the Official Gloucester RFC Website
www.kingsholm-chronicle.org.uk



Captain's Comment

Kingsley Jones

It seems such a long time since we played at Kingsholm - and I can't tell you how much we are all looking forward to playing this afternoon.

Obviously, we have to put the record straight after the game at London Irish - we were all disappointed at the result. It means that the Allied Dunbar Premiership is the only thing left for us now that we are out of the Tetley's Bitter Cup and the European Shield.

From my point of view, the season will have been disappointing is, in the final two

matches, we are not challenging for the title.

This afternoon is a huge challenge - Northampton are a very good side with their fair share of international-class players. And they will be up for it as much as we are.

It is as much a "six pointer" for them as it is for us. A huge game, played between - as John Fidler has already pointed out - two clubs that try and maintain as much of the rugby club traditions as possible in the professional era.

Of course, no one is pretending that the winner today will have a right to the title. From our point of view, we still have a lot of tough games ahead.

But a win for us today will set us up for the last remaining seven

games, which includes an away game at Leicester. Wasps here at Kingsholm next month is another great game - and how about Bath at the beginning of April? And even the 'Quins away will be a tough game. And that's just our next four games!

These are all massive games as we approach the end of the season.

As we go into today's game, the target still remains a place in Europe next season.

We are on target for that - some has worked out that we need just six of seven points from our last eight games to get a top five finish.

But I don't want to look too far down the road. After today's game, we will be reassessing our target with the coaches.



Last time versus Northampton

The West Country Orator

by Alan Kear

**The date, May 31, 1975.
The place, Ballymore,
Brisbane - Australia vs
England.**

Doug Osborne, the Australian wing fielded a high up-and-under. He had kicked the ball into touch when Burton late-tackled him. Referee Burnett ordered Burton off.

To this day, Burton claims that it "could not have been that late because, after all, I did get there as soon as I could!"

Now, back a year ... to the Lions Tour of South Africa. Mike played against a Border XV in East London. The only highlight of the game involved Mike, when he had his shorts torn off and had to get a new pair to replace them.

Eventually, a new pair was found.

Now Mike, being very large found it difficult to get a pair which fitted him - and the only pair that he managed to get on was so tight that he was unable to tuck in his Lions jersey. And the jerseys being so long, it look as though Mike had no shorts on at all.

He turned to run across the pitch to rejoin play. And as he go to the halfway line he stopped, turned and looked back at the stand with a mischievous expression. He slowly grabbed the tail of his jersey and flipped it up, revealing a bare backside - his



newly-acquired shorts had not covered the rump!

Burton gave two or three wiggles and then squeezed his shorts up over his amply bottom.

Ten minutes later, Burton was once more separated from his shorts. He ran over to the stands to rummage the bag for replacements. The game was held up as he poured himself, grunting, into yet another pair of shorts several sizes too small.

With his Lions jersey dangling down outside, there was a buzz of excitement as he turned to run across the pitch. Not without a sense of occasion, Mike ran to the halfway line, stopped, looked over his shoulder, and clasped his Lions jersey.

There was a gasp - then a groan of disappointment as the Burton backside was ... covered by Burton's shorts.

He turned to the stand and wagged a finger, giving a little, err "cheeky" grin!

The week before the Lions had played Transvaal, there was a game against a Select XV. Picked to play tight head for the Select XV was one Johann Strauss. At loose head for the Lions was on M.A. Burton.

No sooner had the first scrum clattered down, Mike said: "Hello Johann, I'm Mickey Burton from Gloucester." Them smack! Mick punched Strauss right on the nose.

At the second scrum, Mike said: "Hello, Johann; remember me? Mickey Burton from Gloucester." Smack! Another one the nose!

Five minutes later at the next scrum Johann Strauss was shaking his head and looking at Mike said: "Don't punch me again. I don't like it."

Johann came into the scrum as quiet as a lamb. Mike then proceeded to turn Strauss inside out in the scrummages for the rest of the game!

*Michael Alan Burton, 17
England caps, 360 appearances
for Gloucester.*

From The Broadcasting Booth

by Ian Randall

Since Gloucester last played at Kingsholm, the 1st anniversary of Philippe Saint André's appointment as coach has passed... and Gloucester marked it with a win at Sale that kept them top of the Premiership.

It's a position that has seemed like the promised land for the past decade, yet the club has been taken there by a man who had no clear intention to be a coach when he stopped playing.

"I never plan my life," said Saint André. "All the time I look at opportunities. I have business interests but I love rugby, and I like to be involved with Gloucester. I want to know if my ideas are good or not, but if the people are not happy with me I would stop tomorrow."

Steady on Philippe. I am sure the faithful would not want that! The squad has been moulded by the former French wing into a unit - a collective unit, a point he is always keen to emphasise.

"This season we have proved we are a better team. The fitness and organisation has improved over the past seven months. I asked my squad at the start of the season if they were serious about their rugby. They've shown that they are."

It will not surprise you to know that the players have

the utmost respect for Saint André's rugby brain, and their reading of Gloucester's breakthrough - from the inside - offers some interesting opinions.

Chris Catling, now very much a utility back, puts it down to Philippe's appointments around him. "Richard Hill used to take all the sessions, and was running the side virtually on his own" he said. "Philippe is the opposite. He delegates a lot to Audley Lumsden and John Brain. We've got a good fitness set-up with Peter Finch. He just manages it all."

Richard Ward too has seen both regimes, pre and post Saint André, and cites a change in the training structure and mental approach as a vital factor. "Under Richard Hill, we would do a lot of full team runs with lots of physical contact. Philippe goes for shorter, sharper sessions."

"He asks us to think about what we're doing off the ball. If you look at it, the bulk of the squad was here when Richard Hill was here. He laid the foundations, but now we're playing the sort of rugby that's put us top of the League. Philippe's got to take a lot of credit for that."

Saint André, too, is keen to acknowledge the work of those alongside him. "John Brain and I work together well" he said. "It looks a funny combination - John, a former lock from Gloucester,

and me a wing from France, but we compliment each other and we have the same philosophy."

The changes imposed by Saint André aren't just visible ones either. The players' diets are closely monitored. Gone are the sandwiches and canned drinks between training sessions. The players now eat together, with poultry and pasta often on the menu.

This afternoon the Championship run-in really starts with the visit of the Saints. John Steele, having cut his coaching teeth at London Scottish, has proved a more than capable successor to Ian McGeechan at the club he served so well as a player, and they are still very much in contention.

It is a chance for Northampton to avenge the Cherry & Whites' win at Franklin's Gardens in October, but Gloucester will be out for a third double of the season to add to those against Sale and Bristol.

And how does Philippe see it?

"We must keep going. We are only 60% of our maximum."

A job not finished then.....

C'mon Glaws !

Ian Randall is Sports Producer at BBC Radio Gloucestershire

All change on laws

The rules explained

The recent IRB experimental law variations relating to the tackle, line-out, scrum and sin bin will not apply throughout the game immediately, but only to the Six Nations, A, U21 and U19 internationals, European competitions, Super 12s and other international matches.

The RFU has agreed to introduce them also into the Allied Dunbar Premiership I and II along with the remaining Tetley's Bitter Cup matches. They will come into effect for the rest of the games at the start of next season, in August 2000. As you struggle to understand the changes, spare a thought for the players, coaches and referees. Match officials only received complete details of these law variations on the eve of matches to be refereed under them, leaving everyone involved with a pretty steep learning curve.

With the changes came the popular myths. Here are a few of the misconceptions corrected and some explanation of the new laws:

- ? Contrary to speculation, there is no off-side at the tackle.
- ? Despite rumour, you can wheel the scrum, only when it reaches 90 will you lose possession.
- ? If the scrum stops its forward movement anywhere, but especially at the goal line, you cannot score a push over try, possession will be awarded to the opposition. The "use it or lose it" approach to the scrummage will be applied on the same basis as at the Maul.
- ? In the lineout you are able to support jumpers in the air above the knee but you cannot hold them up there forever! The acting scrum half can now join the line-out as a full participant.
- ? The sin bin (or temporary exclusion) is for professional fouls, foul play and repeated technical infringements. You can be sin-binned for the first professional foul you commit. The sin bin is for ten minutes playing time. This does not include half time or stoppages for injury.
- ? At the tackle, an arriving player (third on the scene) must enter from his own goy to the non-offending team.



The sound of scratching heads?

If you hear a new sound in the club, don't worry, it will only be the scratching of heads!



Today's Officials

Referee:

Brian Campsall (RFU)

Touch Judges:

Graham Hughes (RFU)

David Matthews (RFU)



FRANCESCA KELLY

Francesca is just eight years old - her birthday is February 10. She attends St. Mary's School in Yate, South Gloucestershire, where she lives with her mum and dad, her older sister Naomi (14) and her older brother Alexander (11). She has become a keen supporter of the Cherry and Whites, following in the footsteps of her dad, Nigel, who is born 'n' bred Glawster.

Francesca follows in the footsteps of Alexander who was mascot back on February 11, 1995. And she is very keen on reminding everyone that on the day Alexander was mascot, Gloucester beat Leicester 9-6. Her hope is that she brings Gloucester the same luck!

the Official Gloucester Matchday Programme is brought to you by

PIA SPORT

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Saturday March 11, 2000

Today's Line-Ups

Gloucester 35 Northampton

15	Richard Tombs
14	Chris Catling
13	Joe Ewens
12	Chris Yates
11	Tom Beim
10	Simon Mannix
9	Laurie Beck
1	Trevor Woodman
2	Neil McCarthy
3	Phil Vickery
4	Rob Fidler
5	Ian Jones
6	Ed Pearce
7	Kingsley Jones(C)
8	Junior Paramore

15	Nick Beal
14	Jon Sleightholme
13	Andy Northey
12	Matt Allen
11	Ben Cohen
10	Paul Grayson
9	Matt Dawson
1	Garry Pagel
2	Federico Mendez
3	Martin Scelzo
4	Jon Phillips
5	Tim Rodber
6	Don Mackinnon
7	Budge Pountney
8	Pat Lam

Replacements

16	Steve Ojomoh
17	Mark Cornwell
18	Ian Sanders
19	Byron Hayward
20	Brian Johnson
21	Chris Fortey
22	Andy Deacon

16	Dom Malone
17	Ali Hepher
18	Craig Moir
19	Steve Walter
20	Matt Stewart
21	Andy Newman
22	Simon Holmes