SUNDAY EXPRESS best for all GLOUCESTER Rugby reports

GLOUCESTER (Home and Away)

FULL BACK
1 E. STEPHENS
THREEQUARTERS
2 K. GRIMSHAW R.W.
3 J. BAYLISS (c) R.C.
4 R. JARDINE L.C.
5 R. MORRIS L.W.
HALF BACK
6 T. PALMER (c) O.H.
7 J. SPALDING S.H.
FORWARDS
8 R. COWLING
9 M. NICHOLLS (c)
10 C. TEAGUE
11 A. BRUNO (c)
12 N. JACKSON
13 A. THOMAS
14 D. OWEN (c)
15 M. NEAL

REFEE:
G. SNOWDEN (Manchester Society)

FIRST XV FIXTURES
Sept. 2 Lyme Regis **** H 22- 6 L
6 Neath **** H 12- 3 L
9 Coventry **** H 21- 4 L
13 Cheltenham **** A 3-11 W
16 Monmouth **** A 14-11 L
20 Cirencester **** A 9-20 L
23 Cheltenham **** H 11-17 L
26 Shrewsbury **** A 14- 5 W
Oct. 2 Elvo Vale **** H 12- 8 L
7 Bourne Kings A 22- 3 W
12 Clifton **** H 3- 4 L
14 Nailors **** H 16- 4 W
21 Newport **** H 14-13 D
28 Old Blues **** H 32- 3 W
Nov. 4 Llanhennock **** A 6- 6 L
11 Monmouth **** H 3- 6 L
15 Cambridge **** A 3-11 L
18 Abertillery **** A 19- 9 L
35 Newbridge **** H 9-11 L
Dec. 2 Oxford Utd. **** H 11-11 D
9 Bath **** H 32- 3 W
16 Canterbury **** A 3- 6 L
23 Northampton **** H 11- 3 W
24 G. M. C. **** H 12- 3 W
27 Stroud **** H 11- 3 W
30 Castleford **** H 14-11 L
(T) International
(C) County

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STOOLS
OUR VISITORS

Whatever has been a club’s fortunes the end of the season is always one of regrets and memories, and it is with a mixed feeling of sadness and cordiality that we extend a welcome to Neath, the last, but by no means the least, of our opponents at Kingsholm until next September.

Neath, the Welsh “All Blacks”, present formidable opponents for our final game. They have won 25 of their 40 matches to date, with 11 lost and 4 drawn, having scored 396 points and conceded 305. Last season, on Saturday, December 3rd, 1966, Neath pipped us at Kingsholm by 9 points to 6, Nick Foice scoring an unconverted try and Mickie Booth kicking a penalty goal.

KINGSHOLM KACKLE

While it is sometimes churlish to make excuses for a series of defeats or a poor season, not even the most cynical supporter will deny that Gloucester have now had two successive seasons of tough luck with their remarkably high list of injuries.

Now, as if to crown all their misfortunes, comes the sad news that their skipper, Don Rutherford, will never be seen in action again for Gloucester. It was with great reluctance that Don, after breaking his arm for the second time last Tuesday, decided to call it a day. Even his critics will agree that Gloucester will be much the poorer without his vast experience and boundless knowledge of the game. They will miss, too, his great sportsmanship, even his own players were subject to his stern rebuke if they attempted anything not “quite above board.”

We all wish Don a speedy recovery, and hope to see him at Kingsholm on occasions next season. For his thoughts, even in his premature “retirement”, will constantly be with Gloucester R.F.C.

As this is the last home match of the season, the committee and officials wish to convey their thanks and appreciation and those of the players, to all members and regular followers who have supported the club.

On this final home match day, too, we would ask your support for the City of Gloucester Division of St. John Ambulance Brigade, for whom a collection will be made at half-time.

Next Monday evening brings the final of the North Glos. Junior Cup competition between Old Richians “A” and Gordon League “A”. On the following Thursday evening, comes the Senior Cup final between Matson – out to win the trophy for the sixth successive year – and Gordon League. The referee will be Mr. Gwynne Walters – the first time there has been an official from outside the Gloucester Society!

Monday evening, April 29th, at Kingsholm, the semi-finals and finals of the Combination’s annual seven-a-side tournament.

A.R.