

## CHAMPIONS' CHATTER

### Injury Problems

The new season has started somewhat frustratingly for Gloucestershire, who have been beset with early injury problems which have prevented several of the stalwarts of the past three title-winning seasons from playing in the friendly game with Monmouthshire last week and in this evening's match.

In the forthcoming championship campaign they will miss, too, the services of former skipper, John Bayliss, now retired from first-class rugby, and that indomitable prop forward, Barry Nelmes, who has been elected vice-captain of Cardiff in their centenary year and has intimated that he will not be available for the County this season.

It is hoped that all the casualties will be fully fit for the first championship match, against Cornwall at Bristol on Saturday, October 9. Fortunately the selectors are well aware that anyone they choose will give his all in the County cause; such is the dedication of West Country rugger men. For, in the words of the famous essayist and philosopher, Ralph Waldo Emerson, nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

## KINGSHOLM KACKLE

### Below Form

Although they retained their unbeaten record with their fifth successive victory at the expense of Waterloo last Saturday there was an air of nonchalance about Gloucester's display. It was as though, if we may quote from Hamlet, they "trod the primrose path of dalliance".

### The Big Game

There must be no semblance of such dalliance next Saturday when they meet their old friends and County rivals, Bristol, here at Kingsholm with the usual kick-off at 3.00 p.m. Unfortunately, both clubs — as Gloucestershire know to their regret — have been badly hit by injuries. We know that John Fidler and John Haines are certainly ruled out of the Gloucester side and that their skipper, Ken Plummer, must be a very doubtful starter for Bristol, as, too, must Dave Rollitt and one or two others. But we hope that in this prestige match, most of the lame and injured of both clubs will be able to take their places in the respective sides.

### Raffle

During this evening's game Gloucester players will be selling raffle tickets in aid of the Players' Fund, the proceeds of which will go towards an overseas tour of America early next summer. The first prize will be a rugby ball autographed by the Gloucestershire and Japanese teams and there will also be two prizes of miniature rugby balls.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Gloucestershire Rugby Football Union wish to express very sincere thanks and appreciation to Umbro International Ltd., for supplying the complete kit worn by the County players.

To Mitre Sports Ltd., for supplying the "Multiplex" ball used in this evening's match.

And to the Gloucester Club, their officials and ladies for the use of Kingsholm and the many facilities provided.

ARTHUR RUSSELL

Designed and printed by Orchard & Ind Ltd., Gloucester

## RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

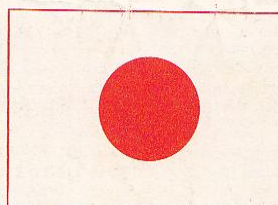


Gloucestershire Rugby Football Union

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE

COUNTY CHAMPIONS 1975/76

V  
JAPAN



AT

KINGSHOLM, GLOUCESTER

ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd, 1976

Kick-Off: 7.00 p.m.

Official Programme — 10p

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE

*White*

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 15. D. P. Sorrell ( <i>Bristol</i> )             | <i>Full Back</i>    |
| 14. A. J. G. Morley ( <i>Bristol</i> ) †         | <i>Right Wing</i>   |
| 13. B. J. Vine ( <i>Gloucester</i> )             | <i>Right Centre</i> |
| 12. R. Jardine ( <i>Gloucester</i> )             | <i>Left Centre</i>  |
| 11. R. R. Mogg ( <i>Gloucester</i> )             | <i>Left Wing</i>    |
| 10. C. G. Williams ( <i>Gloucester</i> ) †       | <i>Outside Half</i> |
| 9. P. Kingston ( <i>Gloucester</i> ) †           | <i>Scrum Half</i>   |
| 1. G. A. F. Sargent ( <i>Gloucester</i> )        | <i>Prop</i>         |
| 2. S. G. F. Mills ( <i>Gloucester</i> )          | <i>Hooker</i>       |
| 3. M. A. Burton ( <i>Gloucester</i> ) †          | <i>Prop</i>         |
| 4. S. B. Boyle ( <i>Gloucester</i> )             | <i>Lock</i>         |
| 5. R. A. Powell ( <i>Llanelli</i> )              | <i>Lock</i>         |
| 6. J. A. Watkins (Capt.) ( <i>Gloucester</i> ) † | <i>Blind Side</i>   |
| 8. A. J. Troughton ( <i>Bristol</i> )            | <i>No. 8</i>        |
| 7. P. Polledri ( <i>Bristol</i> )                | <i>Open Side</i>    |

### Replacements:

F. C. Reed (*Gloucester*)  
 A Sheppard (*Bristol*)  
 E. A. Pinkney (*Gloucester*)  
 R. M. Harding (*Bristol*)  
 R. J. Clewes (*Gloucester*)  
 R. Etheridge (*Gloucester*)

† = International

## JAPAN

*Cherry and White*

- |                           |
|---------------------------|
| 15. Nobuyuki Ueyama       |
| 14. Masaru Fujiwara       |
| 13. Shigetaka Mori        |
| 12. Masao Yoshida         |
| 11. Ken Aruga             |
| 10. Yuji Matsuo           |
| 9. Akio Ueda              |
| 1. Tsukasa Takata (Capt.) |
| 2. Manabu Sasada          |
| 3. Masayuki Miyauchi      |
| 4. Toshio Terai           |
| 5. Naoshi Kumagai         |
| 6. Keiichi Toyoyama       |
| 8. Ichiro Kobayashi       |
| 7. Hideo Akama            |

### Replacements:

Toshiaki Yasui  
 Tsuyoshi Hatakeyama  
 Yoshiaki Izawa  
 Ryoze Imazato  
 Shigekazu Hoshino  
 Nobufumi Tanaka

Referee: D. L. HEAD (London Society)

Touch Judges: W. J. Fowler (Gloucester Society); R. F. Brown (Bristol Society)



我々があなたをかた  
日本のフットボールチームを  
心から歓迎致します。  
キングスホームグラウンド  
および我々の愛する  
このグロスター市での  
数日間を十分エンジョイ  
されますように！

[Translation - "We extend to you, the Japanese Football Team, a heartfelt welcome.  
May you enjoy to the full your few days at the Kingsholm Ground, and in our much loved City of Gloucester!"]

#### MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY PRESIDENT

It is my privilege and very pleasant duty to welcome the Japanese Rugby team to Kingsholm this evening for what is the first match of their short tour of this country.

They are, if they will forgive the expression, one of the 'babes' of the international Rugby scene, but their previous tours have shown them to be tremendously enthusiastic and fleet-footed, determined to run the ball, as we say, at every opportunity.

I have already had the pleasure of meeting the Japanese players and their manager, Mr Shigeru Konno, and they have the same dedication and desire to impress as their predecessors. "Shiggy" pays Gloucestershire the great compliment of considering this evening's match one of the two toughest of their tour - the other being a Scottish XV at Murrayfield next Saturday.

May I, on behalf of Gloucestershire, wish them a successful and thoroughly enjoyable tour.

S. T. DAY  
(President, Gloucestershire Rugby Football Union)

#### CORDIAL WELCOME TO OUR RUGGER FRIENDS FROM JAPAN

The Chorus of Nobles in *The Mikado*, one recalls, sang a charming little ditty proclaiming themselves to their audience - "If you want to know who we are, we are gentlemen of Japan". But while this might have been a delightful musical overture on this auspicious occasion, as professional orators would say, it would have been impracticable, even unnecessary.

For this evening we extend a very cordial welcome on their first appearance at Kingsholm to our new rugger friends from Japan for the opening match of their month's tour and sincerely hope they will enjoy their brief visit to our famous ground and fair city. Their reputation for fast, constructive rugby has gone before them and we look forward to an entertaining game.

For those whose geography is a little rusty - and that includes most of us - Japan embraces the long cluster of islands extending from Kamchatka in the north to the Philippines in the south. The country is also known as Nippon (*Nihon*) or Dai Nippon - (sounds like a certain Gloucestershire selector playing a role in *The Mikado*!).

And while this cluster of islands is comparatively new to the world of Rugby football, the people themselves have not been slow to master the techniques of the game. For instance, in their recent tours of this country the Japanese forwards often gave away up to two stone per man, but it was rarely that they were pushed back, lifted or wheeled.

They quickly worked out ploys to counter this weight disadvantage, including "locking" the scrum, that is, feet well back and knees braced, and a quick "put-in" by their scrum-half. No doubt they will be employing many clever moves this evening, and on their tour.

#### JAPANESE RUGBY UNION TOURING PARTY

1976

#### PEN PORTRAITS

KONNO, Shigeru (Shiggy) (Manager) aged 54. Chairman of Japan Rugby Football Union. Was a prop in his playing days. Attended the R.F.U.'s Centenary Congress. Manager of the tour to England and Wales in 1973. Has been manager of other tours by Japan.

HIBINO, Hiroshi Member of the Coaching Committee of Japan Rugby Union. One of Japan's best wings in the period 1956-60. Coach on Japan's tour to British Columbia in 1976.

1. TAKATA, Tsukasa (Captain). Aged 27; Height 5ft 8in. Weight 172 lbs.  
*Can play as prop or hooker. A strong scrummager and valuable player in rucks. Has already played on tours in 1975 and 1976 and represented Japan against touring sides.*
2. MIYAUCHI, Masayuki (Prop). Aged 27; Height 5ft 9in. Weight 165 lbs.  
*Selected for British Columbia Tour this year after many years as trialist. Is noted for his strong scrummaging.*
3. YASUI, Toshiaki (Prop). Aged 23; Height 5ft 10in. Weight 198 lbs.  
*A newcomer to the Japan side but should be valuable in scrums. Played for his university, Doshisha, against Canterbury University.*
4. SASADA, Manabu (Hooker). Aged 23; Height 5ft 8in. Weight 172 lbs.  
*Has already toured with Japan in Australia and British Columbia. Converted from prop to hooker on account of light weight. Untiring worker in rucks and mauls and also mobile.*
5. WADA, Toru (Hooker). Aged 26; Height 5ft 7in. Weight 165 lbs.  
*Toured Australia with Japan in 1975. Is noted for his strong scrummaging but does not play many competitive games: should show progress on tour.*
6. SHIBATA, Koichi (Lock). Aged 28; Height 6ft 0½in. Weight 198 lbs.  
*Toured with Japan in England in 1973 and three later Japan Rugby Union tours. An experienced forward and is noted for his conscientious unstinting work as lock forward.*



7. **TERAI, Toshio** (Lock). Aged 28; Height 6ft 2½in. Weight 187 lbs.  
*Has been playing for his district representative team since 1966. First represented Japan in 1970. Has already toured in this country in 1973. Japan's tallest player and skilled in lineout play and keeps up with the open play.*
8. **HATAKEYAMA, Tsuyoshi** (Lock). Aged 25; Height 6ft 0 in. Weight 196 lbs.  
*Played for a Combined Clubs side against Cambridge University in 1975. Is a most dedicated untiring worker in rucks and mauls and should develop on this tour. Like Toru Wada does not play many competitive games.*
9. **KUMAGAI, Naoshi** (Lock or No. 8). Aged 22; Height 6ft 0½in. Weight 181 lbs.  
*Captain of Meiji University this season. A newcomer to the Japan side. A mobile untiring worker on the field. Played brilliant rugby for his team who won the Japan Championship.*
10. **IZAWA, Yoshiaki** (Flanker). Aged 29; Height 5ft 10in. Weight 176 lbs.  
*Has been playing for Japan since his Waseda University days in 1967. First toured New Zealand in 1968. A very dedicated rugby player: a powerful runner with good defence coverage.*
11. **AKAMA, Hideo** (Flanker). Aged 27; Height 5ft 10¾in. Weight 174 lbs.  
*Selected for the previous tour of Wales/England in 1973 and toured with Japan in 1974 and 1975. Recently changed from No. 8 to flanker. A little lacking in pace but very reliable in defence.*
12. **TOYOYAMA, Keiichi** (Flanker). Aged 22; Height 5ft 10in. Weight 165 lbs.  
*Captain of Waseda University this season. Toured British Columbia this spring. Has shown tremendous improvement lately and has suddenly joined the top class players. A most conscientious worker, in support at all times. Has great potential.*
13. **HARA, Susumu** (No. 8). Aged 28; Height 5ft 11in. Weight 193 lbs.  
*First played for Japan in 1970. A graduate of Toyo University. Has played as prop for 5 years but recently converted to a No. 8. Noted for his solid defence and powerful running.*
14. **KOBAYASHI, Ichiro** (No. 8). Aged 25; Height 6ft 0½in. Weight 170 lbs.  
*Has played on two previous tours by Japan and against touring sides in Japan. Rather light for a No. 8 but has good judgement and is in the right spot at the right time.*
15. **IMAZATO, Ryozo** (Scrum-half). Aged 29; Height 5ft 4in. Weight 136 lbs.  
*First toured with Japan in 1968. An experienced scrum-half with a fast pass: a good reliable player to have behind the scrum. Was captain of Japan until the game against Wales in 1975 when he announced his retirement. But owing to a lack of reliable scrum-halves has rejoined the team.*
16. **UEDA, Akio** (Scrum-half). Aged 23; Height 5ft 3¼in. Weight 134 lbs.  
*Toured Australia in 1975 and British Columbia in 1976. A very small but courageous half back. A graduate of Keio University.*
17. **MATSUO, Yuji** (Stand-off). Aged 22; Height 5ft 7½in. Weight 143 lbs.  
*First toured with Japan in 1974 but as scrum half. One of the few players who have played rugby from boyhood; converted to stand-off from scrum half after last season and has good potential.*
18. **HOSHINO, Shigekazu** (Stand-off). Aged 21; Height 5ft 8 in. Weight 161 lbs.  
*At Waseda University. Played against Wales in 1975. Toured British Columbia earlier this year. Has been noted for his reliable play and leads his back line well. He should improve on this tour.*
19. **UJINO, Hiroataka** (Wing). Aged 21; Height 5ft 7in. Weight 148 lbs.  
*At Doshisha University. A surprise selection for the British Columbia tour earlier this year. A fast wing, but lacking experience, has great potential and a promising future.*
20. **ARUGA, Ken** (Wing). Aged 25; Height 5ft 5in. Weight 154 lbs.  
*First selected for Japan in 1972 whilst at Nittai University. Top try scorer on tour on New Zealand in 1974. Has now completely recovered from a broken ankle. A small hard running wing with good pace and difficult to stop.*
21. **FUJIWARA, Masaru** (Wing). Aged 23; Height 5ft 9in. Weight 167 lbs.  
*Toured Wales, England and France in 1973; New Zealand in 1974 and Australia in 1975. A fast and strong runner but was plagued with injury last season.*
22. **YOSHIDA, Masao** (Centre or Wing). Aged 25; Height 5ft 7in. Weight 162 lbs.  
*First represented Japan in 1972 against Australian Colts and subsequently toured New Zealand, Australia and British Columbia. One of the most experienced three quarters in the team with good penetration and pace.*
23. **MORI, Shigetaka** (Centre). Aged 24; Height 5ft 6in. Weight 143 lbs.  
*Has toured New Zealand both with Meiji University and Japan in 1973 and 1974. Has also toured Australia and British Columbia. Small but has ability to penetrate with elusive movements. A clever player and can be outstanding.*
24. **MINAMIKAWA, Yoichiro** (Centre). Aged 21; Height 5ft 9½in. Weight 161 lbs.  
*Has represented his university, Waseda, for four seasons. Selected for British Columbia tour 1976. Should develop into a good centre with experience and should improve greatly on this tour.*
25. **UEYAMA, Nobuyuki** (Full Back). Aged 24; Height 5ft 10 in. Weight 162 lbs.  
*Was a surprise selection for the tour of Wales, England and France in 1973 but was one of the finds of that tour and has appeared on four subsequent tours. Has a good long kick and also plays an attacking game.*
26. **TANAKA, Nobufumi** (Full Back). Aged 22; Height 5ft 7in. Weight 143 lbs.  
*Played for Japan Universities and Japan Trials in 1974. Selection for tours followed including that to British Columbia. An outstanding player from high school days and is now showing his talent in senior rugby. An elusive player who plays an attacking game.*