



President FRANK WEBB

DEVON

versus

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

SATURDAY, 23 OCTOBER 1976

**THE COUNTY GROUND
EXETER**

K.O. 2.45 p.m.

5p

MATCH NOTES

Today we welcome Gloucestershire RFU to the County Ground in what may be the last season of the County Championship as we know it. During the last twelve months many new aspects of Rugby Union policy have been reported to us including the possibilities of re-grouping counties, the introduction of a two-tier system or the compression of the Championship into a shorter period. For the sake of all concerned let us hope these decisions are resolved quickly.

Our match today is enhanced by the presence of R. E. G. Jeeps, Esq., President of the Rugby Football Union. Since his election the President has clearly stated that in his opinion our first priority must be to create an England XV capable of successful competition. Although we may argue about the ideal structure on which this ambition can be best achieved, we offer him our wholehearted support.

Gloucestershire field a team today of traditional composition—their county contains only two clubs designated as 'major' and their selectors appear so satisfied with the distillation of talent that their team is chosen entirely from these sources.

Devon also contains two clubs designated as 'major', admittedly seldom as strong as our opponents. Many feel that 'major' clubs should not dominate our county; players should be encouraged to show loyalty to their home clubs and not selfishly seek individual improvement—perhaps they are right.

Gloucestershire have won the South Western Group nine times in the last ten years and have been County Champions for the last three.

TONY LEE, *Hon. Match Sec.*

DEVON

Colours: Green and White

- 15 G. FABIAN (Devonport Services)

14 K. BUTTERWORTH (Torquay Athletic)
13 A. MUNDY (Torquay Athletic)
12 J. CUBITT (St Lukes College)
11 M. SHILLABEER (Plymouth Albion)

10 J. POUSTIE (Torquay Athletic)
9 N. VOSPER (Plymouth Albion) Captain

8 D. FOLLAND (Barnstaple)
7 T. CHARLES (St Lukes College)
6 J. JEWELL (Barnstaple)
5 G. LOVELL (Plymouth Albion)
4 J. SCOTT (Rosslyn Park)
3 B. STEER (Plymouth Albion)
2 J. LOCKYER (Exeter)
1 C. MILLS (Exeter)

Replacements:

- 16 T. TREEBY (Torquay Athletic)
17 G. MILFORD (Exeter)
18 T. BROOKS (Brixham)
19 M. LANE (Devonport Services)

Referee: JOHN WILLIAMSON (Kent Society)
Touch Judges: D. SWADLING, E. J. STEPHENS

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Colours: Red

- 15 D. P. SORRELL (Bristol)

14 *A. J. G. MORLEY (Bristol)
13 C. J. WILLIAMS (Bristol)
12 R. JARDINE (Gloucester)
11 R. R. MOGG (Gloucester)

10 *C. G. WILLIAMS (Gloucester)
9 *P. KINGSTON (Gloucester)

8 *D. M. ROLLITT (Bristol)
7 M. RAFTER (Bristol)
6 *J. A. WATKINS (Gloucester) Captain
5 N. POMPHREY (Bristol)
4 S. B. BOYLE (Gloucester)
3 *M. A. BURTON (Gloucester)
2 S. G. F. MILLS (Gloucester)
1 G. A. F. SARGENT (Gloucester)

Replacements:

- 16 G. TROTT (Stroud)
17 N. WILLIAMS (Clifton)
18 E. A. PINKNEY (Gloucester)
19 R. NICHOLLS (Bath)
20 I. WILKINS (Lydney and St Pauls Coll.)
21 J. WALTERS (St Pauls College)

*International