

"The Blues"

BEDFORD RUGBY UNION



FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded 1886

GOLDINGTON ROAD, BEDFORD

Official Match
PROGRAMME **25p**

*Internationals

TODAY'S TEAMS

Saturday, October 1, 1983. K.O. 3 p.m.

BEDFORD

15 ANDY KEY
14 KERI HOPKINS
13 BRUCE MACKEY
12 JOHN MOSES
11 KEVIN CANNING
10 SIMON SMITH
9 IAN PECK (Capt)
1 ANDY BATHIE
2 ANDY WALFORD
3 GERALD BYGRAVES
4 PAUL CATLING
5 *BOB WILKINSON
6 NICK BENNETT
8 RICHARD EALES
7 ANDY WHITEHOUSE

Rep. BOS SHANNON
Rep. RICHARD DRAGE

v

GLOUCESTER

MIKE WILKINSON 15
DEREK MORGAN 14
RICHARD MOGGS 13
CORMACK O'DONOGHUE 12
NICK PRICE 11
PAUL WEBB 10
STEVE BAKER (Capt) 9
PETER JONES 1
KEVIN WHITE 2
*PHIL BLAKEWAY 3
* JOHN FIDLER 4
JOHN BRAIN 5
PAUL WOOD 6
LARRY CUMMINS 8
IAN SMITH 7

ROB WILMOTT Rep.
IAN ROBERTS Rep.

Referee: TONY GIBBS (Warwick)

CLUB NEWS AND COMMENTS . . .

TODAY it is our privilege to welcome Gloucester to Bedford for our regular encounter. Following an indifferent season last year by their own exceptionally high standards, our visitors appear to have got off to a better start this time with excellent victories over Coventry (19-14), Pontypridd (24-12) and old rivals Bristol (19-12).

This week they drew 7-7 with Llanelli, and only the mighty Swansea (by 46-16) and Cardiff (26-10) have beaten Gloucester so far.

Last year at Kingsholm we lost by 12-9 in a match that was very evenly balanced — a rare event these days at Kingsholm. Indeed, Gloucester have won the last five games between the two clubs.

The first recorded fixture between Bedford and Gloucester was at Gloucester in the season 1905/6 and was convincingly won by Gloucester 52-5 — travelling problems were in part the cause of the defeat! The next meeting was in 1936/7 at Gloucester when Bedford won 9-6. Since then, fixtures have been arranged regularly with Gloucester winning 24, Bedford 14, and four draws.

The largest Gloucester win was in 1972 at Kingsholm, by 47-13; Bedford's best performances were in 1973 (37-15) and 1977 (33-6), both at Bedford.

Gloucester are to be congratulated on the selection of four of their forwards for this season's England squad — Phil Blakeway, Steve Boyle, John Gadd and Steve Mills — an indication of the likely forward strength in opposition this afternoon.

All home supporters were surely heartened by the away victory over Richmond last Sunday, and are hoping to continue with winning ways this afternoon. Bill Barker was injured at Richmond and is replaced by Keri Hopkins who makes his debut. Nick Bennett has returned from the Cambridge tour of Japan and strengthens the back row.

Elsewhere, in the Rovers and Rams, Rupert Meadows and Mark Howe appear for the first time this season; Rupert after harvesting and Mark after his shoulder injury. Both should be challenging for 1st XV places before long.

Last weekend, for the first time this season, all our sides avoided defeat. Wanderers and Rams had convincing wins, while Rovers drew and the Colts had an excellent victory over Northampton.

The Colts have again made an encouraging start to the season and go into October unbeaten. The Northampton and Leicester wins were particularly encouraging. Although last seasons dizzy heights are not expected to be attained, several players of note are emerging, including Richard Porter, Mark Ulsix, Ian Skinsley, Brian Gabriel and Robert Glenister. Glenister has notched up 57 points so far.

Lastly, we all wish our steward and stewardess Colin and Eve Roffe every success in their new venture at Mowsbury Park Golf Club. They have given much valued service to our Club in their time here and we hope to still see them in a social capacity.
