



Newport R.F.C.

RODNEY PARADE, NEWPORT

Official
Programme
30p



NEWPORT

VERSUS

GLOUCESTER

MONDAY, 21st DECEMBER 1987

KICK-OFF 7.00 p.m.

Sponsored by: RON COLLIER of ROYAL LIFE

TODAY'S TEAMS

NEWPORT

Colours: Black & Amber

Jonathan CALLARD	15	Full Back	15	Tim SMITH
Brendan WALSH	14	Right Wing	14	Derek MORGAN
Chris MANLEY	13	Right Centre	13	Rory McCLAIN
David PITT	12	Left Centre	12	Clive DYKE
Guy PUTLAND	11	Left Wing	11	Nick PRICE
Colin WATKINS	10	Outside Half	10	Mike HAMLIN
Ricky STEWART	9	Inside Half	9	Marcus HANNIFORD (Capt)

GLOUCESTER

Cherry and White

Mark DAVIES	1	Forwards	1	Malcolm PREEDY
Mark SHUGAR	2		2	Kevin DUNN
Rhys MORGAN (Capt)	3		3	Richard PASCALL PHILLIPS
Mike ARTHUR	4		4	Nigel SCRIVENS
David WATERS	5		5	John BRAIN
Andy POCOCK	6		6	Paul ASHMEAD
Paul ROBERTS	8		8	Jeremy BENNETT
Glen GEORGE	7		7	Ian SMITH

Substitutes:

Nigel HUGHES
Tudor THOMAS

Referee: L.J. PEARD (Castleton)

Next Home Game: Tuesday, 29th December v CROSS KEYS :: Kick-Off 3.00pm

Newport R.F.C. would like to thank
RON COLLIER of ROYAL LIFE
for sponsoring tonight's game

NEWPORT R.F.C. thank
UMBRO INTERNATIONAL and PATRICK
for sponsoring their kit this season.

Newport R.F.C. Programme Editor: B. J. Jones

WELCOME TO THE PARADE

THIS EVENING we open our Festive Season by extending a very warm welcome to our near neighbours from across the bridge – Gloucester – who, like Bath and Bristol, are very much part of the Rodney Parade scene. The Cherry and Whites have been “friendly” opponents of the Black and Ambers for many decades, with each game being keenly contested irrespective of whether it is played at Kingsholme or here at Rodney Parade. Earlier this season Gloucester were victors at Kingsholme by 16pts to nil, and will be striving for “the double” this evening, well aware that the Black and Ambers achieved the feat last season in two highly entertaining and high scoring games (34-21 at Rodney Parade, 29-15 at Kingsholme). Many Newport supporters quickly recall the quality of the Black and Ambers’ play in the first half of the game at Kingsholme as being the best produced in last season’s record-breaking success and everyone present would agree, including the Cherry and White supporters who, for the first time in living memory, were silenced into making everyone think they were in a crematorium or cemetery, not vociferous Kingsholme.

As we reach the half way stage in this historic season (the first for “Leagues” in the Rugby Union), our visitors are well placed in the top division and ready for a final challenge for honours in 1988. Everyone here at Rodney Parade wishes them well and are confident that they will retain their position as one of England’s leading Clubs – a position that has been gained by hard work on and off the field for over a century. Last Saturday the South West were defeated in the Divisional Championship but no doubt those Gloucester players included in the team will have impressed the England selectors enough to ensure that the Club’s illustrious international reputation will be maintained in the future.

Welcome, Gloucester – we are confident that tonight’s game will be played with plenty of “spirit” and that both teams will re-emphasise the enjoyment rugby football can give to players and spectators alike, irrespective of the result.

Congratulations to David Waters on his part in helping Crawshays win the Dubai Sevens, and no doubt Rhys Morgan and the selectors are delighted that he returned uninjured. Throughout this season his line-out skills have been a major source of possession for the team and vital if the Black and Ambers are to compete at the highest levels of the game. Referring back to Sevens, “Muddy” has earned an outstanding reputation in the game not only for his line-out skills but for his ball handling, mobility and “elastic arms” in defence – long may he continue to serve the Club he has played well over 450 games for. His loyalty and service, like that of Rhys Morgan who is now only a few games away from the Club appearance record, is greatly appreciated by everyone at Rodney Parade and it is hoped that it will inspire the many young players now with the Club. As these notes had to be with the printer prior to last Saturday’s game at Bedwas, and the “crystal ball” has been very cloudy this season, it is impossible to make any predictions about “Lady Luck” being kind in the draw. Let’s hope that “The Lady”, who has been conspicuous by her absence so far this season, will have shone on the Black and Ambers and we are looking forward to the next round.

The Players’ Christmas Lunch was an outstanding success and it was great to see Roger Powell present as he has been at a number of matches recently. Everyone at Rodney Parade hopes that we will soon see him back in a Black and Amber jersey, playing with his usual skill and determination to ensure success for the Club that he has publicly stated “means so much to him”.

The selectors are pleased that Nigel Callard has now recovered from his broken jaw and is back challenging for a 1st XV place, but disappointed that Frank Hillman has joined the “Injury List” with a similar injury sustained at Aberavon and that Marc Batten is also likely to miss a number of games with a hand injury he sustained on the ski slope at Pontypool.

The Chairman, Committee and Players would like to wish you all “A Very Merry Christmas” and remember this Boxing Day we journey “away” to Newbridge for our traditional fayre.