WAKEFIELD RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded 1901 · COLLEGE GROVE · WAKEFIELD

SEASON 1988-89

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 30P
LAST WEEK
A fine home win last Saturday against Blackheath.

THIS AFTERNOON

Now we come to the day of the Quarter-Final of the Pilkington Cup and we have been favoured by the draw to play here at College Grove. Whom did we hope to face in this round? Well, certainly a Courage Division One side since we are the only ‘minnow’ (to use journalistic jargon) in the last eight of the competition. So we welcome Gloucester.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It is my privilege and my pleasure to welcome the Players, Officials, and Supporters of Gloucester Rugby Club on its first visit to Wakefield. We hope that the reception and entertainment will be to their satisfaction and they have a most enjoyable visit, especially that they may see a close game of good, open rugby.

I well remember Wakefield’s only visit to Kingsholm on Easter Saturday 1932. Neither side was at full strength, and the weather was indifferent; but we enjoyed a closer game than the score, 3-18, might imply, and also the very hospitable reception extended to us. I trust that you will all return home after this game with equally warm feelings.

W. GUEST
President of Wakefield R.F.C.

UP FOR THE CUP

Certainly Gloucester have had to come up many miles for today’s game at College Grove, a ground with spectator space rather more restricted than at Kingsholm, their own fine headquarters. Now that you all, both Players and Supporters, have reached here after travelling so far, we hope that whatever the result this afternoon you really enjoy your visit.

So may we now examine your pedigree? Well, you have won the Cup three times, the last time being in 1982 when you shared the trophy with Moseley. An impressive record. Furthermore in Courage Division One you at present sit in second place below Bath to whom you did lose early in the season. But what happened on Friday night last week? Gloucester did it — they stopped Bath’s unbeaten run and with a eighteen points to twelve victory inflicted on their visitors their first defeat since Easter last year, the end of a successful journey of forty matches.

In their Pilkington Cup campaign this season, Gloucester along with all other Division One clubs came into the competition at Round Three, in which in an away game they put down Brixham by twenty-eight points to four; then in the Fourth Round tie at Kingsholm there was that close, exciting encounter you probably saw on ‘Rugby Special’ when our visitors overcame Waterloo in the dying minutes of the game to win nineteen points to sixteen. Such is the calibre of our visitors this afternoon.
Mike Teague returns to their pack today after taking part in that English victory last week in Dublin; next Saturday he will be putting on his boots to face the French at Twickenham. Two other Gloucester forwards, Kevin Dunn and Richard Pascall, have been selected for the England B Team to play France B on Friday 3 March. Congratulations to all of you. We hope it is not long before a Wakefield name appears once again alongside yours on these national team-sheets.

**HAVE WE PLAYED GLOUCESTER BEFORE?**

Immediately after the Draw for this game was made the initial reaction of supporters up here and down at Gloucester was that the two clubs had never met on the field before. Oh dear, what short memories some folk do have! It is only fifty-seven, yes, fifty-seven since Wakefield graced the field at Kingsholm. You will have read in Bill Guest’s welcoming message earlier in this programme that Wakefield that day lost eighteen points to three. Bill was in his customary full-back position and Alf Chest, who will be among today’s spectators, was in the centre.

The ‘Gloucester Citizen’ of 26 March 1932 had a mighty long report on the encounter, and certain aspects of Wakefield’s play certainly impressed their hosts. “The visitors were splendidly served at scrum-half and full-back where Bradley and Guest were outstanding. . . . . Guest’s defence especially was a feature of the game and he stopped at least three tries by smashing tackles.”

The teams that Easter Saturday were:

**Gloucester**
- D. Parker, G. W. Parker, J. C. Brooks, V. Sheppard, A. E. Brooke, F. Fifield, R. James, A. Carpenter, F. Wadley (Cpt), E. Comley, J. Hemming, Dr R. N. Williams, A. Welshmen, K. Smith, H. J. Hyett.

**Wakefield**

**Referee:**
- Mr J. T. Curtis.

Are any of the young men in the above 1932 Gloucester team present among the spectators today? If so, do let us know. Our President and the Club Officials would like to greet you and give you a particular welcome.

**NOW FOR THE FUTURE**

It is important to note that from next Saturday 4 March until the end of the season ALL Saturday matches have a kick-off time of 3 o’clock.

Now a message to today’s spectators from the Merrie City of Wakefield. The Club is so appreciative of your support today. See you again. Please note that in 4½ weeks’ time yet another Cup competition gets under way. On Thursday 30 March Wakefield entertain Bradford and Bingley in Round One of the Yorkshire Cup.