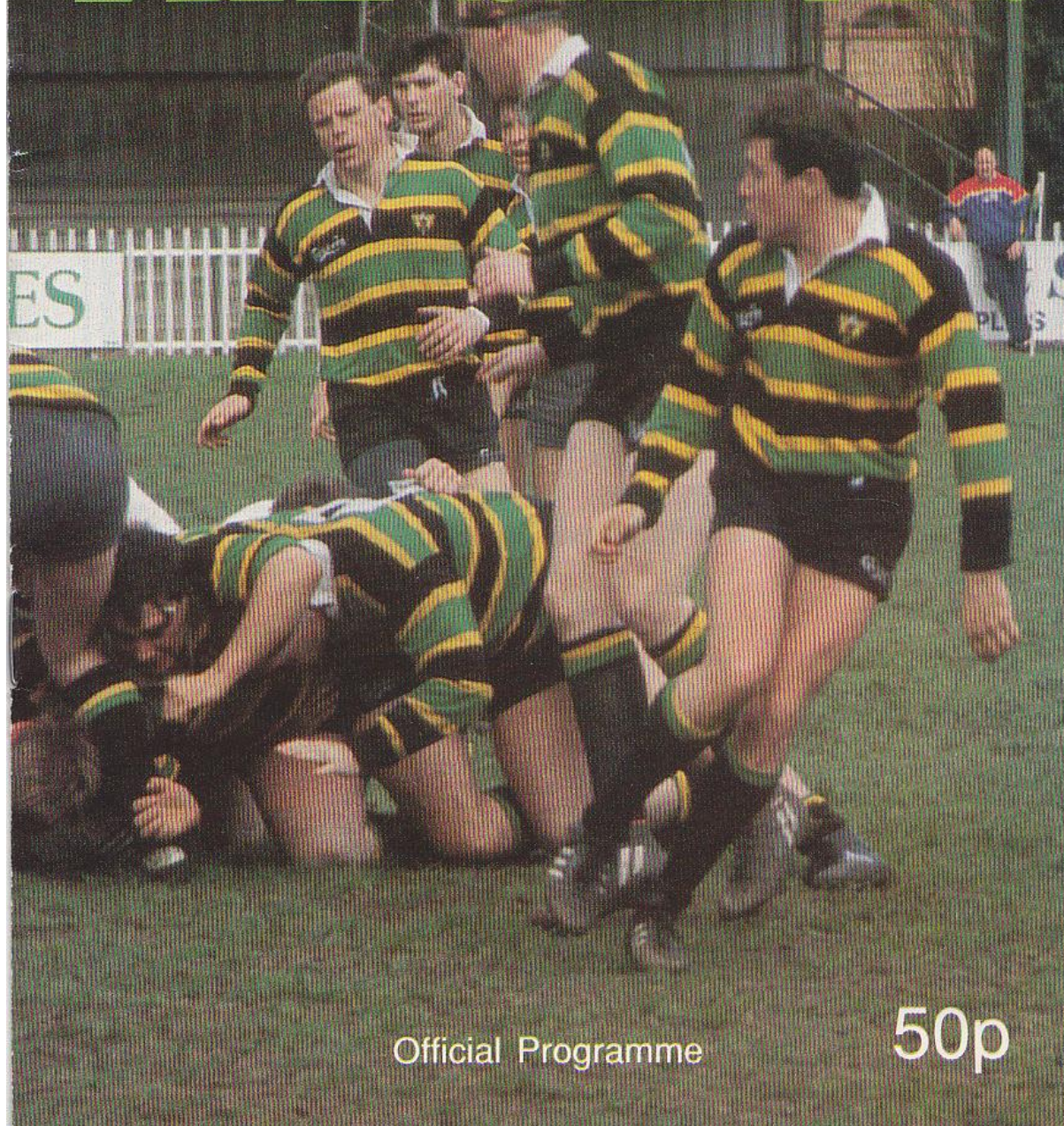


NORTHAMPTON FOOTBALL CLUB
Franklins Gardens, Weedon Rd, St. James, Northampton.

AFFILIATED TO THE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION
FOUNDED 1880

THE SAINTS



Official Programme

50p

**TODAY'S MATCHBALL
IS SPONSORED BY**



MIDLAND

Colours:

Black, green and gold hoops
black shorts

NORTHAMPTON 12

- 15 IAN HUNTER 1T
- 14 FRANK PACKMAN
- 13 JOHN THAME
- 12 PETER MOSS
- 11 BEN WARD
- 10 JOHN STEELE 1C 2PG
- 9 DAVID ELKINGTON
- 1 VACEY POCKLINGTON
- 2 DUNCAN FRANKLAND
- 3 GARY PEARCE (CAPT.) INT.
- 4 COLIN HALL
- 5 NICK DYTE
- 6 PAUL ALSTON
- 8 TIM RODBER
- 7 PHIL PASK

REPLACEMENTS
PETER ROWORTH
IAN PLANT
DAVID NEWMAN
STEVE MILES
W. CARR

24TH
MARCH
1990

Left Wing
Fly Half
Scrum Half

Forwards

Touch Judge
Peter Wakefield
London Ref. Soc.

Referee
C. High
Manchester
Ref. Society

Colours:

Red and white

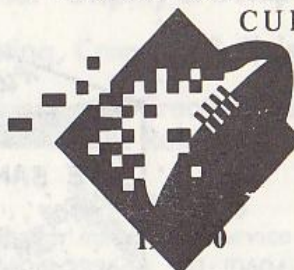
GLOUCESTER 17

- 15 TIM SMITH 3PG
- 14 DERRICK MORGAN 1T
- 13 DON CASKIE
- 12 RICHARD MOGG
- 11 JIM BREEZE
- 10 MIKE HAMLING
- 9 MARCUS HANNAFORD
- 1 MALCOLM PREEDY
- 2 KEVIN DUNN 1T
- 3 RICHARD PASCALL
- 4 NIGEL SCRIVENS
- 5 JOHN BRAIN
- 6 JOHN GADD
- 8 MIKE TEAGUE
- 7 IAN SMITH

REPLACEMENTS:
PAUL ASHMEAD
DAVID SIMMS
BOB PHILIPS
JOHN HAWKER
DAMIAN CUMMINS
LLOYD GARDENER

**'A special Welcome to:
Taygold Ironmongery
Limited, F.S. Day Limited,
Gard Sports of Northampton,
Manns & Norwich Brewery
Limited'**

THE
PILKINGTON
CUP



MATCH NOTES

Welcome to Franklins Gardens for what is probably the biggest day in the Club's history. There have undoubtedly been many great occasions at Franklins Gardens in the past, but a Pilkington Cup Semi-Final at home to current 1st Division leaders Gloucester must take some beating. There cannot have been many times previously when the "Ground Full" signs have appeared twice in a month. Add to this the huge crowd for the Courage League visit of Coventry and a bumper Mobbs day and you have a very happy treasurer. There is no doubt that the rapid turn around in the playing fortunes of the Saints have brought with them unforeseen problems, mainly those of tickets allocation and crowd control. The Committee have worked hard to minimise the inconvenience to members, and the "big match" organisation headed by Mike Timbrell seems to have most matters under control.

If you are going to win any knock out competition a club has at some stage to take on the acknowledged "big boys". They don't come any bigger than Gloucester arguably the most consistent side in the Country. Currently topping the Courage League Division 1, Gloucester have high hopes of emulating Bath and completing a League and Cup double. The Saints, having disposed of Leicester in the quarter finals, are of course pursuing their own League and Cup double, being just one match away from Twickenham and promotion. The next two weeks promise to be very interesting.

The Gloucester team is full of well known names, Mike League after a most successful Lions tour will be disappointed, as we all were, with the result at Murrayfield. I am sure Mike will be looking for a better result today, along with the experienced John Gadd and Ian Smith he forms a formidable back row unit. John Brians and Nigel Scrivens are effective ball winners, and with former International Malcolm Preedy, England B hooker Kevin Dunn and Richard Pascall form the basis of a powerful pack. Gloucester backs tend to be overshadowed by the forwards but this no longer is the case. On his day full back Tim Smith is a match winner. Wingers Jim Breeze and Derrick Morgan are consistent try scorers, well served by the evergreen Richard Mogg and Don Caskie, add half-back Mike Hamlin and Marcus Hannaford and you have a useful outfit.

In 1985-86 Gloucester recorded the biggest win in the competition 87pts to 3 v Exeter. Richard Mogg scored 4 tries on that occasion making him joint top try scorer in one match. The Gloucester total of 16 tries in that match is also a record - shared with Bath.

Gloucester have reached the Cup Final on three occasions and never lost. In the inaugural year 1971-72 they beat Moseley by 17pts to 6. In 1977-78 they beat Leicester 6-3 and in 1981-82 they drew 12pts all again with Moseley and shared the trophy.

The traveling army of Gloucester supporters are warmly welcomed to Franklins Gardens where I am sure they will add greatly to the atmosphere of the day.

The Saints side is full of confidence after superb wins over Leicester in the previous round, and Coventry in the crucial top of the table clash. The spirit, and enthusiasm of the side and the deadly boot of John Steele have been a winning combination. Tim Rodber returns today, having missed the Coventry game due to Army commitments both John and Tim are to be congratulated on their selection for the biggest England squad on record in preparation for the World Cup after next! Gary Pearce and his men are enjoying the best season the Saints have enjoyed for years. This is a result of continued hard work, and to the thorough approach of coach Paul Bryant. If the current progress continues then the Saints and Gloucester will be meeting next season in Division One.

Continued on page 19

TODAYS MATCH OFFICIALS

Colin High has charge of todays match. A member of Manchester Society and the International panel, Colin has refereed 2 International games France v Wales and Wales v U.S.S.R., he is paying his first visit of the season to Franklins Gardens. Colin will be assisted by Mr. K.V. Ricketts (Hampshire) and Peter Wakefield (London) who will run the lines with full powers as laid down by the I.B. We welcome all three officials to Northampton and hope they enjoy their days Rugby.

DRAWN GAMES

If at the end of normal time the scores are level there shall be an immediate period of replay between the same teams of 10 mins each way with a one minute interval. If the scores are still equal the team scoring the most tries shall go forward. If this still does not produce a result the team that has scored the most goals from tries shall go forward. If the tries and goals from tries still equal the visiting team shall go forward.

HOW THEY GOT TO THE SEMI-FINALS

SAINTS

2nd Round v Northern W 25-4
3rd Round v Met. Police W 16-4
4th Round v Wakefield W 22-10
5th Round v Leicester W 23-7

GLOUCESTER

v Wasps W 23-19
v Gosforth W 26-15
v Nottingham W 26-16

CUP PLAYING RECORD

SAINTS

P35 W 18 L 17
Points For-Against 509-398

GLOUCESTER

P 55 W 40 L 14 D1
Points For-Against 934-452

BEST PERFORMANCE

1989 -90 Quarter Final
v Leicester W 23-7

BEST PERFORMANCE

1971-72 Final
v Moseley W 17-6
1977-78 Final
v Leicester W 6-3
1981-82 Final
v Moseley D 12-12
(Shared Trophy)

END OF SEASON CELEBRATION EVENING

In the pavilion 8 till midnight April 28th after the final home match of the season. Dancing to Mixed Blessings, tickets are £2 available from any Lady Committee member or the Saints shop after any home match. Tickets are strictly limited early purchase is advisable.

LET'S FINISH THE SEASON IN STYLE.

SPONSORS

Today our matchball sponsors are Midland Bank we also have sponsoring us today Taygold Ironmongery and Manns & Norwich the Club would like to thank them for their support and wish them a pleasant afternoon's Rugby with us.

PROGRAMME NOTES FOR PILKINGTON CUP

SEMI FINAL - 24TH MARCH 1990

The penultimate hurdle before Twickenham for the final four in the Pilkington Cup.

While two teams in today's semi-finals may have been predictable, the other two, arguably, would not have featured. All credit must go to Northampton, looking for the double of promotion from Division 2 and Cup Winner in the same season. Moseley have also shown that cup rugby is no respecter of league positions.

With their large followings, Bath and Gloucester will inevitably mean "ground full" notices at both venues.

Suggestions have been made, from time to time, that the semis might be switched to neutral grounds with suitable capacity. An extra benefit would be that show-piece matches could be spread around England. Whether the teams first out of the Draw would agree to this is another matter and irrelevant to today's battles.

Whichever teams go through to the May 5th Final will thoroughly deserve their visit to "HQ", where a second successive full house is promised. With the capacity reduced this season, book early.

See you there,

Tony Cove
Pilkington plc

