LEICESTER
Colours: Scarlet/Green/White

O  J. Liley
N  B. Evans*  
M  P. Dodge* 
L  I. Bates 
K  R. Underwood* 
J  J. Harris  
I  A. Kardooni  
A  S. Redfern 
B  C. Tressler 
C  W. Richardson  
D  A. Gissing  
E  T. Smith  
F  J. Wells  
G  D. Richards* (Capt.)  
H  N. Back  
Repl: P. T. Buttimore  
Q. A. Marriott  

*denotes International
Leicester Tigers' Adidas Boots provided by Sound FM

TODAY'S MATCH SPONSORS

GLOUCESTER
Colours: Cherry/White

15  T. Smith  
14  D. Morgan  
13  D. Caskie  
12  D. Cummins  
11  N. Marment  
10  M. Hamlin (Capt.)  
9  M. Hannaford  
1  P. Jones  
2  J. Hawker  
3  R. Pascall  
4  D. Sims  
5  J. Brain  
6  M. Teague  
8  B. Clark  
7  I. Smith  
Repl: 16  L. Gardiner  
17  K. Dunn  
Referee: D. W. Matthews (Liverpool Soc.)

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This afternoon we start our Courage League Campaign against the might of Gloucester. Whatever may have happened to date, this fixture must surely be one of the most attractive - yet difficult - of the season so far.

LEICESTER FOOTBALL CLUB wish to extend the most cordial of welcomes to all of the Supporters, Players and Officials of Gloucester FOOTBALL CLUB.

So often of late, the term "partisan" seems to have been employed when describing the "Kingsholm Kop". It cannot have escaped most people's notice at Welford Road, that whenever Gloucester are our guests, there appears to be an almost deafening crescendo following each Gloucester move. What is wrong with that? Ladies and Gentlemen of Gloucester Football Club: we shall do our utmost to match you decible for decible during the match, but you will not match us in our sincere welcome to each and every one of you. We hope that you have a very enjoyable day with us at Leicester and a safe journey back to the West Country.

"MINI-RUGBY"

Are you like me: a little over 22, interested in Rugby and with young children? If so, then why not introduce your little horrors to the delights of "MINI-RUGBY"?

Knowing virtually nothing about this form of our noble game, I took the plunge a few weeks ago on a Sunday morning and took my young son Tom (aged 6) to the Training Session of Kibworth Rugby Club at their Market Harborough ground. Kibworth proved to be a very welcoming Club with superb facilities and an excellent team of Coaches for every age group; but Kibworth is only one of many Clubs operating a Mini-scheme for children aged 5-12 (and thereafter the junior sides for under 13 onwards).

There are two points about the game that I feel are worth stressing from the outset. Firstly, up until the children are 8 years old, it is strictly NON-CONTACT (no tackling, kicking etc.). Secondly, it is open to boys AND GIRLS! So young Adolf is unlikely to come home with a black eye - unless of course he has made an illegal tackle on Norah, training for the front row!

In this primary age group ("under 8's") the emphasis is principally on ball handling; there are no field positions to confuse the little tots: no scrum, line out or kicking. A "tackle" is executed when both hands are placed on the opponents hips. Above all, it was stressed that the children must enjoy what they are doing; and they certainly appeared to be doing just that.

"Mini-Rugby" strictly speaking is the term used to describe the training given to the under 9, 10, 11 age group; Mini-Rugby for the U-12's and the full 15 a side rules for the U-13's and upwards: whilst the training given to U-7's and U-8's is termed NON-CONTACT and "New Image" Rugby. The Mini-Scheme is a progressive development increasing the skills taught year by year. A brief analysis is as follows:

Under 8's: Ball handling. Play games with small numbers. Passing. (All with size 3 ball)


Under 10's: Active scrum. 2 man line out. (Size 4 ball)

Under 11's: Controlled kicking (no fly-kicking). Kick off, tap penalty, tap free kick, quick throw-in all introduced.

Under 12's: Play 12 a side games. Laws of the game where applicable. 4 man line out. (No hand off).


If you are interested in the prospect of Mini Rugby you could contact your local club... OR...

On Sunday Week, September 30th there is a "Mini Rugby Festival" at Hinckley R.F.C. Ground, Leicester Road, Hinckley; matches commencing at 10.00 a.m. with various Clubs taking part. You will be most welcome.

Do please consider Rugby as a participating sport for your child if they do not have the opportunity of playing the game at their school. Our youngsters are the life-blood of the game and Mini Rugby is an ideal introduction to the joy and comradeship that a sport with our revered reputation holds.

From literally the future briefly back to the past. On Saturday 10th January 1981, Leicester, with forwards Woodward, Dodge and Here on England Squad training managed to defeat an equally depleted Gloucester side by 14 pts to 9 (having taken a 31-4 hiding at the Kauldron earlier). Tigers win was largely due to the inspiration of Les Cusworth, scoring and converting a try making one for Tim Berridale, and watching amazed at another try from Steve Redfern! This was followed a grand victory the previous week over Bath by 13-11!

From a clipping of the Sports Mail ("Green "Un") from 1862, I see that Tigers visited the West Country twice that Autumn: interestingly, on 20th October drawing 0-0 with Cheltenham; yet two weeks later on 3rd November going to Kingsholm and winning a thriller by 8-6 thanks to tries from Frank Chawner and Dickie Bird (the latter converted by fly-half for the day Ken Scotland); Gloucester scoring two fine tries by mears Hopson and Pitt.

Ladies, Gentlemen and children, may we wish you and both teams a grand afternoon!
With the start of the fourth season of league fixtures today match sees the start of the real serious action. Leicester could not have chosen harder opposition than Gloucester who must still be kicking themselves for losing 12-3 at Nottingham in the final round of games last season and handing the Championship to Wasps. This disappointment was further compounded by their poor display against Bath in the Cup Final.

The ‘Cherry and Whites’ will be in no mood to let things slip this season and Leicester will have to improve greatly on recent results against Gloucester to avoid defeat this afternoon. Of the last nineteen clashes Gloucester have won thirteen of these games, and at Kingsholm they have won eight out of the last nine — the last seven on the trot. In the Courage League Leicester have yet to beat Gloucester and in January 1989 inflicted the Tigers’ heaviest league defeat to date when winning 25-0, the only league game that Leicester have failed to score.

Gloucester have had a real tough start to the season, and on the three Saturdays so far, they have met Welsh opposition. The first match saw Swansea take their home record with a 4-14 victory, and then they went down 17-10 at Neath. However, they got back to winning ways last Saturday by beating Pontypool 38-15 away.

Leicester have a really hard game on their hands this afternoon against a club who have more victories on Leicester soil than any other. The Tigers team shows three changes from the side that took the field against Northamption. The most welcome is the return of captain Dean Richards who recovered from his flu in place of Mark Grant. Also back is Avey Underwood, taking the place of his brother Tony, who has now left for Cambridge University. The third change comes at fly-half where Las Harris comes in for Brian Smith who is required by the Irish squad preparing for their match against Argentina on October 27th.

Today’s round of league games starts one of the busiest periods for the clubs top players. Between now and Christmas there is not a single Saturday that their services will not be required. There are seven league games to get in before the end of November plus the Cup 3rd round on the 24th. Then the Divisional matches take up the first three weeks of December giving them very little breathing space to recover from any knocks before the Barbarians match. Let’s hope for all concerned that the injury jinx which has hampered Leicester in previous seasons smiles favourably this year.

Courage League Division I 1989-90

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Next Home Match:
Courage Division 1
Set Oct 13th v Nottingham
K.O. 3.00pm