SAINTS
15 Ian Hunter
14 Frank Paekman
13 John Thame
12 Paul Ingram
11 Harvey Thornycroft
10 John Steele
9 David Elkington
8 Wayne Shelford
7 Phil Paskell
6 Paul Alston
5 John Etheridge
4 Tim Rodber
3 Gary Pearce (capt)
1 Gavin Baldwin

GLOUCESTER
Tim Smith 15
14 Nick Marment
13 Don Caskie
12 Simon Morris
11 Nick Price
10 Mike Hamlin (capt)
9 Marcus Hannaford
8 Peter Jones
7 Kevin Dunn
6 Bob Phillips
5 Nigel Scrivens
4 Dave Smith
3 Dave Spencer
2 Ian Smith
1 Mike Teague

Replacements:
Matthew Ebaworth
Peter Roworth

Bold face = Full International

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* One of today’s programmes contains a lucky rugby ball on this page. The winner should call in at the club office to claim a £25 prize.*
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(Founded 1880)
Affiliated to the Rugby Union and East Midlands Union
Season 1990/91
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Saints....................... P. Bryant and M. Lee
Wanderers...................... V. Cannon
U21/Crusaders............... C. Martin
Youth......................... G. Wright & J. Cubitt
Printing....................... Abbeyfield Press

Barrie Corless writes...

Today's match against Gloucester naturally evokes memories of last season and that
March afternoon when we failed at the last hurdle in our bid to reach Twickenham.
The question now, of course, is whether we have bridged the gap sufficiently to reverse the
scoreline.
I answer that with an emphatic yes. Last season we were
pushed around in the scrum
and spent a lot of the second
half going backwards.
I do not believe that will be the
case today.
We have considerably increased
our scrummaging power, while
Gloucester have just recently
lost two of that pack to Bedford.
Gloucester, of course, had a
marvellous campaign which
promised so much last season
and ended with nothing in the
way of tangible reward.
Pipped in the league by Wasps
and hammered in the Pilkington
Cup final by Bath.
Those twin disappointments
seem to have taken their toll this
season, and they arrive here out
of the Cup and mid-table in the
league.
A win today would make the
rest of the season a bonus, certainly helping us to relax for
the Pilkington Cup semi-final
against Orrell.
But while it would be great to
get to Twickenham, the
important thing is to ensure
First Division rugby next
season.
A look at today's opponents......Gloucester

Heartbreaking defeats leave a giant hang-over

This time last year, Gloucester were riding high on the crest of a great season. They were poised to face us in the Pilkington Cup semi-finals, and they were moving inexorably towards the Courage League title.

But in the final two games of the season, things turned sour - defeat at Nottingham handing the championship to Wasps and with spirits at a low ebb, they were massacred by Bath in the Twickenham showpiece. Their efforts deserved far better, but this season seems to have turned into a giant hang-over. Results have been only average in the league, while Harlequins inflicted a 15-13 Cup defeat at Kingsholm.

Then, amid some controversy, two players quit a few weeks ago to join Bedford.

WORLD CUP TICKETS
WANDERERS REPORT - See page 22

A formidable Gloucester pack that lay the foundation for their Cup victory here last season. The majority of that side will be in today's starting line-up with back row ace, Mike Teague. The Gloucester No 8 has smothered himself in international glory again this season with two tries from blindside flanker for England in their bid for the Grand Slam, which comes to a head next Saturday against France.

Mike's ambition is to play in the World Cup, and that is an absolutely certainty despite the ferocity of competition for back row places.

Lock John Brain and prop Richard Pascall were the men at the centre of the row, and both were in the

Carlsberg

On behalf of Carlsberg, I would like to welcome you to Franklin's Gardens for this afternoon's game against Gloucester.

Gloucester are one of the best supported clubs in the country and to all of you who have travelled from the West Country we issue a special welcome.

Last year the sides played a tremendous Cup semi-final with Gloucester the winners. I am certain that revenge for that defeat is foremost in the minds of the Saints.

The stage is then set for, hopefully, a very exciting and cleanly fought game.

Carlsberg established its UK headquarters in Northampton in 1974 and since then has been involved in a variety of local and national sponsorships.

The company currently sponsors basketball, water-skiing, the British Olympic teams for 1992 and this year, the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo.

I hope you all have an entertaining afternoon: enjoy the game and enjoy a pint afterwards... probably.