

The Saints
v
Gloucester

COURAGE LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE
Official programme
NORTHAMPTON
FOOTBALL CLUB: £1
Saturday, March 13
1993
KICK OFF: 3.00pm

Today's Teams

SAINTS

15	John Steele
14	IAN HUNTER
13	Nick Beal
12	Frank Packman
11	Harvey Thorneycroft
10	Seb Tubb
9	Matthew Dawson
1	Gavin Baldwin
2	JOHN OLVER (capt.)
3	GARY PEARCE
4	John Etheridge
5	MARTIN BAYFIELD
6	Peter Walton
7	Rob Tebbutt
8	WAYNE SHELFORD

REPLACEMENTS

16	Rob MacNaughton
17	David Merlin

GLOUCESTER

15	Tim Smith
14	Paul Holford
13	Don Caskie
12	Damian Cummins
11	Simon Morris
10	Paul Beech
9	Laurie Beck
1	PETE JONES
2	Dave Kearsey
3	Rob Phillips
4	Dave Sims
5	Richard West
6	Pete Glanville
7	IAN SMITH (capt.)
8	Paul Ashmead

REPLACEMENTS

16	Julian Davis
17	Glyn Mann

Today's referee:
STEWART PIERCY (RFU)
Touch Judges:
Bob Jenkins & Ian Roberts
(RFU)



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Ward's a credit to his old club

BEN Ward took the scoring honours against Gala last week, but it was Jon Ward who caught the eye.

It was only his fifth Saints game since moving from his Devon home in Crediton in the summer to take up a two year business course at Nene College. But that is five games more than he expected.

"I applied to four colleges. I was not accepted at Oxford and didn't fancy either Southampton or Bournemouth. The Nene course looked the best bet. It was only then that I decided to write to the rugby club," admitted the 22-year-old former insurance salesman.

"I could just have carried on playing junior rugby but I thought I might as well aim for the top."

Now he's glad he did. Reports from the Wanderers suggest he is improving by the week, and his display against Gala underlined a sharp turn of pace and an eye for an opening.

He has played in several positions already but wants to concentrate on full back.

"If I can end up as understudy to Ian Hunter I will learn a lot. I hope when the college course has finished to stay in Northampton – that was not the intention when I came."

The rugby was secondary when he moved here in the summer, having had no ambitions to play top flight rugby.

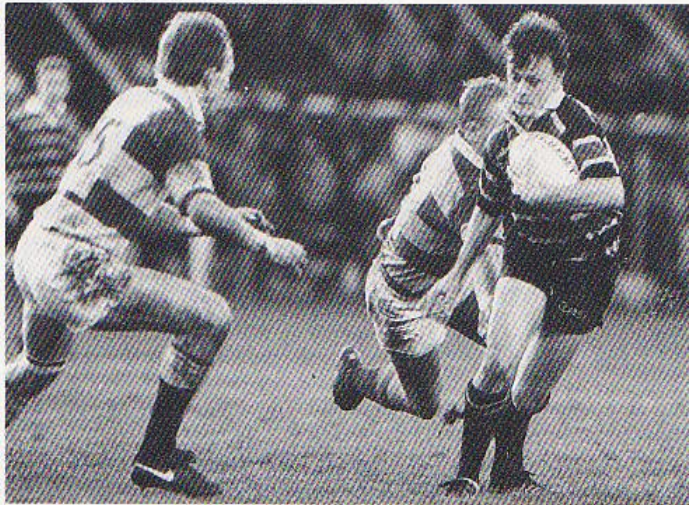
Indeed at 18, with his form at stand-off suffering behind a struggling pack, he quit the game and earned money from sport – playing right back for Crediton United in the semi-pro. Great Mills Western League.

"I was a right back or sweeper, getting £10 a week."

But the lure of rugby was too strong and he returned to an improving Crediton club, which won promotion last season to the

Western Counties League. Ward had a fiery baptism into Wanderers rugby, against Gloucester and Bath in successive weeks. It was a bit overwhelming, but with greater fitness and the benefit of quality players around him, he has developed rapidly, so much so

that one player remarked. "You could put him in against Gloucester on Saturday and he would be able to handle it." With home and away league games next season, Ward could prove a useful member of the squad.



- Jon Ward in his debut game against Bedford

David Abbott

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Today's opposition...GLOUCESTER

MIGHTY Gloucester, the pride of English rugby, will be battling today to cling on to their Division One status.

An horrendous start to the season – four defeats in five games – has made this wretched four-down season an uphill struggle.

With four games to go they are fighting it out with Orrell and London Scottish for the last relegation spot with West Hartlepool, Saracens and Rugby looking doomed.

After today, the Kingsholm boys face Orrell (H), Bristol (A) and Quins (H).

They ought to be good enough to survive, and few would bet against them becoming a major force again even though there have been rumblings of discontent with Mike Teague leading a mass exodus from Gloucester last season.

Most were over-the-hill players, but with a staggering crop of injuries this season a lot of those players would have come in handy.

Three more players have indicated

they may leave at the end of the season, including England A fly half Neil Matthews, missing through injury today.

One player to emerge this season is blind side flanker, Pete Glanville, who got his chance after Paul Ashmead was sent off at Leicester.

Ashmead has now returned, but has been shifted to No 8.

Tim Smith returns to full back today, after being dropped following the real nightmare result of the season, a 21-6 home defeat by West Hartlepool.

Compare that to a gritty display at Leicester, where they played most of the game with 14 men following Ashmead's dismissal yet only went down 22-21.

• Saints supporters are still smarting from last season, when the Gloucester programme referred to Northampton as playing in green, black and YELLOW. One irate fan demanded that Gloucester's shirts be described as RED and not cherry!

Courage League Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wasps	8	8	0	0	137	68	16
Bath	8	7	0	1	236	57	14
Leicester	9	7	0	2	159	96	14
Northampton	8	6	0	2	98	79	12
Harlequins	9	4	1	4	157	125	9
Bristol	8	4	0	4	86	109	8
London Irish	9	4	0	5	119	173	8
Gloucester	8	3	0	5	97	108	6
Orrell	8	3	0	5	71	125	6
London Scottish	8	2	1	5	120	112	5
West Hartlepool	8	2	0	6	78	103	4
Saracens	9	2	0	7	74	134	4
Rugby	8	1	0	7	64	207	2

Touchlines...Touchlines...Touch

SOMEONE to have made as much news as the Gloucester team this season is the Gloucester Citizen rugby writer, one Kate Coker. Yes, those hirsute giants of English rugby now have their performances dissected by a feminine hand. Kate, a graduate of Leicester University, only started watching the game during her student days. From Welford Road she moved on to that hotbed of rugby, Stow-on-the-Wold, where she made her first tentative rugby etchings. Still, they must have been good because she landed the Citizen job at the start of the season, when her predecessor headed off round the world. She is undecided about her next career move but after a couple of seasons at Kingsholm she should be about ready to take over from Bill McLaren...

•••
Dodie Weir, who played for the Barbarians on Wednesday in the 77-59 frolic over East Midlands in the Mobbs Memorial game is not the only member of the Weir family to tread the Franklin's Gardens turf recently. Brother Alan turned out for the



A RARE sight from Wednesday's East Midlands – Barbarians Mobbs Memorial game – a tackle! Seb Tubb is the man caught in possession in a game of 22 tries, 13 for the Baa Baas, which raised £3,900 for youth rugby from sponsors Scottish Amicable at £300 a go.

Wanderers last Saturday against Old Scouts as did John Laing, a lock forward who had played for Gala the previous night. Laing made it a scoring 'debut'.

•••
A former regular first team man, now playing most of his rugby for the Wanderers, was

surprised at the ease with which Gala, containing 10 of their championship challenging side, were brushed aside. After the 41-12 romp he commented. 'I ought to move to Scotland and play Division One rugby. I'd be a star up there.'