

CIS INSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

1994/95

SEMI FINAL NORTHUMBERLAND — V — GLOUCESTERSHIRE

TYNEDALE RFC
SATURDAY 11 MARCH 1995
KICK OFF 3.00 PM



SPONSORED BY



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

CAN HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF ?

.....Northumberland obviously hope so !

Fourteen years in the life-time of a rugby player very often, at best, means the start and end of his playing career ... but not so in the case of five members of the Northumberland XV of 1981.

Jim Pollock, then with Northern, is still playing regularly with Novos; David Johnson, at the time with Gosforth, is a star nowadays with promotion-seeking Blaydon; Colin White still makes the occasional first XV fixture with Newcastle Gosforth; Terry Roberts, the much-travelled lock forward, is still the mainstay of a pack, this time with Northern, and Steve Bainbridge, another to explore the country, is now with Blaydon but was with Orrell 14 years ago - and that was the last time Northumberland and Gloucestershire met in the championship !

It was at Gloucester, incidentally, on their Kingsholm ground, and Northumberland gave perhaps their best ever performance, winning by 15-6. All their supporters here at Tynedale today will be hoping for a repeat success.

It was only Northumberland's second triumph in this national competition since it began in 1889, their first one having been as long ago as 1898.

Since then the championship has gone through several changes of format, sadly nowadays not having the impact nationally that it did have, but Gloucestershire are still proud of their many achievements over the years, and Northumberland can point proudly to their appearances in finals against Devon (1899 and 1912), Hampshire (1936), and Middlesex (1979).

Gloucestershire had by 1981 won the title 12 times 1910, 1913, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1937, 1974, 1975 and 1976 - three hat-tricks be it noted - and they also appeared in another 11 finals between 1902 and 1980. A glittering record.

CENTENARY YEAR

That Northumberland's feat 14 years ago in which, by the way, Brian Patrick (Newcastle Gosforth) also played - and he is still turning out

for the Nomads XV at the club , as is Bob Anderson - coincided with the centenary year of the Northumberland Union.

What an extraordinary year that was, and more so because it meant those who had the pleasure of watching could recall three remarkably memorable occasions in just over 12 months - the others being the North's win over the All-Blacks at Otley and England's final victory over Scotland at Murrayfield which ensured the Five Nations Championship, Triple crown, the Grand Slam and the Calcutta Cup.

While there are no All Blacks this season, the Grand Slam etc. could be just around the corner again !

But back to 1981 and the victory at Gloucester. This was the Northumberland team : B.Patrick (Gosforth); J.Pollock (Northern), A.Tindle (Northern), R.W.Breakey (Gosforth), J.S.Gustard (Gosforth) captain; D.Johnson (Gosforth), M.Young (Gosforth); J.Bell (Gosforth), R.Cunningham (Gosforth), C.White (Gosforth), T.C.Roberts (Gosforth), S.Bainbridge (Orrell), I.Richardson (Gosforth), R.Anderson (Gosforth), G.Smallwood (Northern).

It was unfortunate that Roger Uttley, then with Wasps, who went on to Captain England, missed the final because of injury.

The Gloucestershire team was : P.E.Butley (Gloucester); L.Dick (Cheltenham), P.Cue (Bristol), P.Taylor (Gloucester), R.R.Mogg (Gloucester); D.Sorrell (Bristol), P.Kingston (Gloucester); G.A.F. Sargent (Gloucester), K.Bogira (Bristol), A.Sheppard (Bristol), N.Pomphrey (Bristol), J.Fidler (Gloucester), M.Rafter (Bristol) captain, R.Hesford (Bristol), O.Wood (Gloucester).

All that is of course in the past, but will no doubt bring back many memories to some who are here today . More important is what happens this afternoon though, isn't it ?

(Our thanks to John Pargeter, formerly rugby correspondent of 'The Journal' for contributing these programme notes.)

CIS County Championship Semi - Final

Saturday 11th. March 1995

NORTHUMBERLAND

15	Andrew Blyth	Tynedale
14	Graham Ward	Novos
13	Ross Wilkinson	Newcastle Gosforth
12	Ian Chandler	Newcastle Gosforth
11	David Rees	Sale
10	David Johnson	Blaydon
9	Simon Clayton-Hibbott	Tynedale
1	Richard Parker (Captain)	Tynedale
2	Ed. Parker	Tynedale
3	Duncan Clark	Morpeth
4	Kevin Westgarth	West Hartlepool
5	Richard Metcalfe	Newcastle Gosforth
6	Rob. Hoole	Newcastle Gosforth
7	Neil Frankland	Newcastle Gosforth
8	David Guthrie	Blaydon

Replacements :-

16	Paul Winter	Tynedale
17	John Goodfellow	Morpeth
18	Stephen Dunn	Tynedale
19	Stephen Turnbull	Tynedale
20	Mark Carr	Percy Park
21	Michael Old	Tynedale
22	George Robson	Newcastle Gosforth

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

15	Tim Smith	Gloucester
14	Derrick Morgan	Cheltenham
13	Ian Morgan	Gloucester
12	Andy Williams	Bristol
11	David John	Bristol
10	Mike Hamlin (Capt.)	Gloucester
9	Julian Davis	Lydney
1	Gareth Williams	Lydney
2	Nick Nelmes	Lydney
3	Simon Baldwin	Gloucester O.B.
4	Tim Clink	Cheltenham
5	Chris. Blake	Clifton
6	Bobby Fowke	Gloucester
7	Andrew Stanley	Gloucester
8	Ian Patten	Bristol

Replacements :-

16	Jason Merchant	Matson
17	Jeff. Powell	Berry Hill
18	Lawrie Beck	Bristol
19	Jeff. Cole	Gloucester O.B.
20	Steven Baldwin	Gloucester O.B.
21	Pete Miles	Gloucester
22	Darren Main	Matson

Referee
B. CAMPSALL
RFU

Touch Judges
G. Davies
and
C. Sidebottom

THE 1994/95 CHAMPIONSHIP ...

... has resulted in today's contestants arriving at the semi-final stage by different routes.

After the experiment with area leagues of recent seasons the RFU permitted the Divisions the freedom to produce their own semi-finalists by the means most fitting to their own requirements.

In the North there had been considerable pressure for a return to what was considered the 'traditional' Northern Championship where each of the six counties played the others. In contrast, the South West and London Divisions joined forces to try a system of small leagues of three or four counties, each including a seeded side, with the league winners playing off to produce two national semi-finalists. From this latter system Berkshire and our opponents today, Gloucestershire emerged. Incidentally, in the other semi-final this afternoon, Berkshire play Warwickshire who came through from the Midlands own version of a league competition.

Many in the North feel that the decision to return to the format of previous years was vindicated by the extremely competitive nature of our competition this year. Even had it been planned, no-one could have arranged a closer finish whereby four of the six counties were possible overall Northern Champions on the eve of the final round of matches. The five games involved allowed Northumberland to slip up in their opening game in Cumbria yet by virtue of a superb victory over Yorkshire the following Saturday to build a platform to take the Northern title.

There has been some pressure for the North and Midlands to adopt the South West and London model of competition next season but within the North only Lancashire and Yorkshire supported this idea. Could they possibly see themselves as perpetual semi-finalists ? After this season Northumberland are quite happy with the status quo !

NORTHUMBERLAND'S ROUTE TO THE SEMI-FINAL

<u>Results</u>	Cumbria	15	Northumberland	10
	Northumberland	30	Yorkshire	14
	Cheshire	17	Northumberland	19
	Northumberland	11	Durham	3
	Lancashire	8	Northumberland	17

Final Northern Group Table

	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
Northumberland	4	0	1	87	57
Yorkshire	3	1	1	128	99
Cumbria	3	0	2	69	67
Lancashire	2	1	2	111	79
Cheshire	2	0	3	55	95
Durham	0	0	5	26	79

GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S ROUTE TO THE SEMI-FINAL

Results

Gloucestershire	25	Devon	12
Gloucestershire	41	Bucks.	13
Sussex	19	Gloucestershire	42

Southern Playoff

Gloucestershire	23	Surrey	6
-----------------	----	--------	---