



WASPS v

GLOUCESTER

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP

**WIN
UNITED
AIRLINES
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£1,000**

LUCKY
PROGRAMME
NUMBER

0535

£2.00

Saturday
30 March 1996
Kick-off 3.00 pm

Club Sponsor

**UNITED
AIRLINES**

WASPS

- 15 JON UFTON
14 LAURENCE SCRASE
13 NICK GREENSTOCK
12 AARON JAMES
11 SHANE ROISER
10 CHRIS BRAITHWAITE
9 ANDY GOMARSALL
1 DARREN MOLLOY
2 KEVIN DUNN
3 IAN DUNSTON
4 MATT GREENWOOD
5 RICHARD KINSEY
6 MICHAEL WHITE
7 LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO* (Capt.)
8 PETER SCRIVENER
Replacements
16 MICHAEL SKINNER
17 GUY GREGORY
18 DUGALD MACER
19 ANDY ORUGBOH



Referee:
Mr J. J. M. PEARSON
(RFU/Durham)

Touch Judges:
Mr J. BURTENSHAW
(RFU)
Mr D. J. WILLIAMS
(RFU)

Assessor:
Mr A. S. MANSELL

* INTERNATIONAL

GLOUCESTER

- 15 GARETH FENWICK
14 MIKE PETERS
13 DON CASKIE
12 MARTIN ROBERTS
11 MIKE LLOYD
10 MARTYN KIMBER
9 SCOTT BENTON
1 TONY WINDO
2 PHIL GREENING
3 ANDY DEACON
4 ROB FIDLER
5 DAVE SIMS (Capt.)
6 PETE GLANVILLE
7 IAN SMITH
8 CHRIS RAYMOND
Replacements
16 RICHARD WEST
17 JOHN HAWKER
18 ADRIAN POWLIS
19 LAURIE BECK

* INTERNATIONAL

CLUB

N E W S

WE offer a warm Sudbury welcome to our old friends from Gloucester and their loyal supporters, three coach loads of whom will be here for this game in the Courage Clubs Championship. We also welcome and thank today's match sponsors Bacon & Woodrow and the parties from DTZ Debenham Thorpe, Baring Asset Management, Bass Brewers, Wasp Management plc and Milcars who are all using our corporate hospitality rooms this afternoon.

Gloucester made a disappointing start to the current Courage Clubs Championship, with a string of losses in the League but in the second half of the season under the firm guidance of their director of coaching Richard Hill, the former England and Bath scrum-half, there has been a stunning improvement. Since Christmas, they have won a succession of five competitive games including a Pilkington Cup quarter-final in which Wasps were comprehensively beaten by 22-9, our only points coming from Guy Gregory's three penalty goals. Last Saturday, in the semi-final round, Gloucester gave Cup-holders Bath a real run for their money before bowing out by 19-10. On their present form,

they look a safe bet to avoid the relegation that threatened them earlier in this season and they are sure to give us a hard game today.

Previous League Games v Gloucester

Gloucester's last League appearance at Sudbury in January last year resulted in a thrilling match which we won by 21-16. Rob Andrew opened our scoring with a penalty goal after three minutes and Mark Mapletoft then kicked two penalties for Gloucester. We regained the lead when Steve Bates worked the blind side and found Nick Greenstock, who deflected a pass back for Phil Hopley to score in the corner. Mapletoft kicked a third penalty, but we replied with a glorious try in which the ball passed through some 18 pairs of hands before Steve Bates dived over by the corner flag. In the second half, Lawrence Dallaglio went over for a try for Wasps after a series of short penalties before Mapletoft scored under the posts and converted to put Gloucester within two points of our total. They proceeded to put us under intense pressure but our defence held out and Andrew sealed the issue with a penalty goal just five minutes from time.

This season, we travelled to

Kingsholm in October where the home side took an early lead through two penalty goals from full-back Tim Smith. Andrew put over a fine penalty; then a good tackle by Shane Roiser on his opposite number set up a strong attack which brought a try for Dean Ryan — Andrew converting with a magnificent kick from the touchline. Martin Kimber dropped a goal for Gloucester just before half-time but two penalties from Andrew early in the second half stretched our lead. There followed two tries from Dallaglio which put us out of sight — the first from a blind-side move from a scrum near the line and the second from a brilliant 30-yard run reminiscent of his play in the Sevens a couple of years back. Tim Smith's two final penalties for Gloucester made the full-time score 26-15 to Wasps.

Wasps v Sale

In contrast to today's visitors, we have been in poor form recently and it was a relief to win last Saturday's crucial League fixture with Sale by 25-16. The game began with a series of short penalties to Sale near our line before they took the three points on offer through a penalty from Rob Liley. Gregory and Liley swapped penalty goals and, just before half-time, Mike White charged down Paul Turner's attempted clearance and followed up to score for Wasps. Gregory kicked an immaculate conversion to give us a half-time lead of 10-6, somewhat against the run of play. Liley

Today's _____

OPPOSITION

THE "Cherry & Whites" have had a great tradition of being a local club founded on local talent since Gloucester RFC was established in 1873. But this season, the Kingsholm faithful have welcomed two "outsiders" in crucial behind-the-scenes roles — former Bath and England scrum-half Richard Hill as director of coaching and Mike Coley, ex Harlequins and former RFU Marketing Director as chief executive.

One of Richard Hill's first innovations was the introduction of a new, expanded playing structure affecting all club sides from Colts upwards. During the 1994/95 season, it is fair to say that Gloucester's first XV failed to find the level of consistency that would have allowed them to make an impact on Division One. They opened their season by losing away to Wasps by 45-8, with the home side scoring seven tries — the most that Gloucester have ever conceded in a League match. In spite of some good results, including home wins against West Hartlepool, Bristol and Orrell as well as a 9-3 defeat of Leicester, a number of matches were lost by narrow margins. There was a 14-10 win to celebrate at Harlequins and Gloucester held Bath to a 19-19 draw at the Recreation Ground, but the last Saturday of the League season saw Quins gain their revenge with Gloucester's biggest ever home defeat by 17-28. The club ended the season placed seventh in the League One table.

Last summer, internationals Ian Smith and Richard West represented Scotland and England respectively at the World Cup in South Africa. Highly-respected lock David Sims and last season's leading try-scorer Paul Holford toured Australia with England A, while forward Phil Greening was chosen to captain England Colts. Full back Mark Mapletoft gained second place in Gloucester's all-time points scoring list during 1994/95, equalling Tim Smith's haul of 85 for a season. He has been sadly missed during the last few months, while recovering from cruciate ligament damage, and his loss was a serious blow to the side.

This season, with Dave Sims captaining the first XV, former internationals Mike Teague, John Fidler and Peter Fuller are lending their experience on the playing side. Teague, who won 29 caps for England, has been appointed as team manager for the club with Vivian Woolley continuing as first team coach. This combination might have proved even more formidable had Gloucester succeed in their bid to entice All Black Frank Bunce to take on a coaching role, but his arrival was ruled out because of the contacts the All Blacks had signed with New Zealand.

Gloucester has traditionally fielded a strong pack and current forwards such as Richard West, Andy Deacon, Richard Fidler and Peter Glanville present an outstanding line-up alongside Dave Sims. There was controversy last month when lock forward Simon Devereux was jailed for nine months for inflicting grievous bodily harm on a Rosslyn Park player, breaking his jaw with a punch during a game. However, this may have proved the spur which inspired Gloucester to victory over Wasps in the quarter-final of the Pilkington Cup at Kingsholm, before their Cup final aspirations were brought to a close by Bath at the Recreation Ground last Saturday.

After a couple of mediocre seasons, Gloucester are definitely looking to make an impact in the League this time round. And with Wasps seeking to avenge last month's Cup defeat, a determined contest could be in prospect this afternoon.