

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1961

GLOUCESTER'S GREAT PACK WON THE DAY

BEDFORD 11PTS., GLOUCESTER 17PTS.

Gloucester are noted at Bedford as being a powerful side, and this season they look better than ever. Their winning spell came late in the proceedings, but it came with a relentless efficiency.

For this, Gloucester must thank their forwards. Bulky, yes, but bulk itself is never enough. Long, Brinn, Davies and Smith had speed and energy as well, and, with the addition of the ubiquitous and clever Ford, formed a formidable machine which eventually carried the day.

Matched in every way, and often overcome, in the first half by a Bedford pack good enough to overwhelm most sides, the Gloucester eight gradually wore down all opposition and proceeded in the second half to dominate in everything except the tight.

And, even here, Nicholls began to get more of the strike.

DEMORALISED

Towards the end the Bedford forwards were demoralised men indeed apart from England wing man "Budge" Rogers, who, despite all Gloucester's power, remained the best forward on the field.

Outside the scrum Gloucester were never completely on top and seldom on top at all.

Flashes of brilliance came from Hopson and occasional sound moves from Bayliss, but passing movements which showed great promise almost always ended with little ground having been made.

Hawker, brought in at full back in place of the injured Hillier, began shakily, but as the game progressed fielded and kicked with precision.

It was a close and hard fought game. Although one try could well be described as lucky – and this try started Bedford's downfall – Gloucester well deserved to win.

ALL BEDFORD

The first half went all Bedford's way with tries by Barber and Rogers, one of which Lewin converted, to which the visitors could reply with only a penalty goal kicked by Booth.

Thus with the half-time score 8–3 Bedford looked set for victory and there was no sign, or even suspicion of Gloucester's eventual dominance.

Then came the somewhat lucky try scored by Ford – it seemed he was beaten to the touch down by Bedford's Jackson – which put Gloucester within striking distance. Now in rapid succession Bayliss scored a try which Booth converted. Booth kicked the second penalty goal and Brinn got a try.

Gloucester were home and dry, and Bedford's Rogers just managed a consolation try.

UNITED WERE WELL BEATEN

GLOUCESTER UTD. 3PTS., NEWPORT H.S.O.B. 15PTS.

The less said about United's inelegant defeat at Kingsholm on Saturday the better.

It started with the inclusion of Les King – a fine wing forward – at scrum-half and continued throughout the whole of the game. Defeat was in the air for Gloucester – apart from very brief shafts of promise from wing threequarter Colin James and Jackie Lowe at fly half – and later at scrum-half.

DESERVED LEAD

The visitors thoroughly deserved to put their nine first half points on Gloucester and the second half score of three points to six is a fair indication of the play.

Tony Osman scored a try just as the referee blew no-side.

The Gloucester pack, even, did not seem to be very well organised.

NO SKIPPER

And this poses the question: When is the United side going to elect a skipper. They have chopped and changed more than a few times this season, allegedly because a large number of their players may find a place in the premier side. A leader is long overdue, if Saturday's game is any criterion of their play this season.

Fowler (dropped goal), Sheppard (try), Holland (2 penalties), and Deacon (try) scored for Newport.