

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1961

FIVE FATEFUL MINUTES . . .

THEY HELD THE KEY TO THIS GREAT MATCH

GLOUCESTER 11 Pts., NEWPORT 23 Pts.

The score flatters Newport a little but who cares? It was a game worth watching for frequent moments of good football and one moment of superb football when Gloucester notched a try which began from well behind the centre line.

The Welsh side was excellent, but none of their excellence surpassed the greatness of that try which Peter Meadows scored after Hillier and Booth had turned sure defence into decisive attack. For a few moments after that it looked as if Gloucester could pull off a win.

Take away the first five minutes and you take away the picture of Gloucester floundering like shipwrecked mariners on a dark shore. Take these black minutes away and you take away the key to the Cherry and White's defeat.

It was obvious that Bryn Meredith – usually a prince among hookers as well as a fine loose mauler – told his pack to hit Gloucester hard, soon and quickly. The visitors certainly wasted no time in pressing home an attack which had the Gloucester forwards disorganised on their own line.

INEFFECTIVE

The Newport skipper scored the opening try in the first minute from a tap penalty. So we had a picture of the Gloucester forwards unusually ineffectual in the opening minutes, too slow to defend.

And when the Welshmen skipped gaily over for a second try their threes showed to very good advantage against their Gloucester counterparts.

You can always tell the spirit of a side by the way its members tackle. There was no zip in the tackles and this said in clear, loud tones that Gloucester were rattled.

After that second try though, they started to recover. It was a defensive error by Gloucester which gave it away when international winger D. Gilbert-Smith's clearance kick was charged down by wing threequarter Rees.

NICHOLLS DOES WELL

Now the home threes started to find a few gaps in the barbed defences.

Mike Nicholls hooked well against the prodigious Meredith, but Roy Long and Alan Brinn did not get the measure of the ruthlessly efficient Ian Ford in the lineouts until much later.

Scrum half Morris scored a try which full-back Edwards converted before Gloucester's hero, Peter Meadows, crossed for the home side's single try of the first half.

GEM OF A TRY

Brian Jones, Newport's left centre, dribbled like a Tom Finney down the wing and crossed for another unconverted try. The Welshmen were 11 points ahead at half-time.

Newport's fly-half, Watkins, dropped a goal and then came Meadows' try, which was not so much Meadows' try as all-the-Gloucester-backs' try. For Hillier (superb throughout and often over-worked!) started it after one of his characteristically crisp catches. Booth saw a chance, used his loaf and Hillier and he took it over the centre line to Hopson.

Then it went to the threes who produced a faultless, fast and thrilling run up the left wing and left winger Meadows scored. Hillier rounded off the incident with a fine conversion kick.

Gloucester were on top when Meadows crossed again and for a few tense minutes it looked as if the home side could do the impossible and win.

But masters of the art of surprise the men of Newport sprung a couple of attacks which put paid to Gloucester's hopes. Centre Hurrell scored a try and Anderson, their fast moving forward, scored another.

Peter Meadows' three tries assured him of immortality, and a well-deserved place in the county side. He and John Bayliss (also in the county side) in the centre were always a danger to Newport.

Gloucester missed winning by a long margin but they provided spirited opposition for Newport in the second half. It was a good game, entertaining, open and fast. Well worth a visit to Kingsholm even if only to see that wonderful tank among props, Tony Ricketts !

ATTRACTIVE RUGBY BY UNITED

NEWPORT UTD. 20 PTS.

GLO'STER UTD. 14 PTS.

Although they recovered well from early setbacks in this game at Rodney Parade, Newport, on Saturday, Gloucester United found the strong and skilful Newport side too much of a handful.

Gloucester produced some excellent attacking rugby after they had settled down, and thoroughly entertained the home crowd. Their three-quarter line was efficient and hardworking, but the service they received was limited by the home pack's superiority.

SMART THRUSTS

The game was fast, and thrilling, with Newport's clever backs producing some fine open movements. Gloucester countered this with intelligent kicking and several smart thrusts down the middle by J. Lowe and J. Spalding.

J. Hawker at full-back for Gloucester, was very sound in defence, and deserved credit for the way he recovered from a bad penalty miskick early on, and confidently scored from two further penalty attempts. R. Hannaford and T. Osman on the wings were also prominent and each scored a fine try.

HAT-TRICK OF TRIES

The men doing the damage for the Newport side were speedy outside half Ian James and winger Ritchie Wills. These two combined very effectively and from passes by the tricky James, Wills gained a hat-trick of tries.

Gloucester fought all the way but could not quite match the class and punch of Newport United, who included several men with first team experience.