

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1961

## GALLANT GLO'STER SURPRISED MIGHT COVENTRY

Don't judge this match from the score alone – if you do you will not be giving Gloucester anything like the credit they deserve. Coventry did not dominate play until 15 minutes from full time – after they had completely exhausted their visitors.

The Coventry scrum-half, George Cole, kicked two classic penalties to open the Midland club's scoring and Gloucester – although pressing very hard and then forced to defend with an equal amount of vigour – took a long time to open their account.

Fumbling and attempts at long passes which very rarely came off let Coventry down badly in the first half and it was not until seconds before half-time that Terry Hopson slipped through to score the first try of the match. Reg Chamberlayne made an excellent job of the conversion and thus Gloucester were only one point down at the interval.

Soon after the restart Gloucester lost Terry Davis through injury, but they went further ahead when Eric Stephens dribbled over for an unconverted try.

## BURST OF SCORING

However, it was clear that they had had to defend and work so hard, Gloucester could not keep up the pace which Coventry hotted up as the minutes ticked away, and eventually the home team staggered the Cherry and Whites with four tries and a brilliant angular dropped goal by Cole.

Tony Osman was a constant source of worry with his brilliant sprints when he found an open flank, but he was restricted by comprehensive opposition positioning and only once did he go really dangerously close – only to be brought down almost on the corner post.

## HAWKER EARNS APPLAUSE

One Gloucester player who did earn applause from the Coundon-rd. rugger connoisseurs on quite a few occasions was full-back Peter Hawker.

His "arms-up to baffle and then drop-round the waist" method of stopping an opposition forward, has been perfected and the Coventry crowd had, obviously, never seen anything quite like it.

One last reflection, and I quote from the notes on Saturday's Coventry programme . . .

"It is unfortunate that such an attractive fixture should be ruined each season by County football."

One has to sympathise with the Coventry supporters – they only see a "half-strength" Gloucester side at Coundon-rd. every October, but when Coventry visit Gloucester in December, they are confronted with the real Gloucester.