

GLOUCESTER JOURNAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1961

THRUST FROM THE THREES AT LAST

BETTER PLACE-KICKING TOO

Kingsholm rugby supporters have certainly had their fill of entertaining football during the past few weeks, and it is good to see that they have not been grudging with their praise even when Gloucester have met with defeat.

Starting with the county friendly against Monmouthshire, there was the spectacular display in the Newport match, then the county's win over Devon, followed by last Saturday's great win over Leicester by 26 points to 11.

On the showing of Peter Meadows and Jack Bayliss in the Devon match, and the general display against Leicester it looks as though the Gloucester back division has combined to a better degree than at any time in the past 12 months.

Many supporters, no doubt will say, over a much longer period than that!

Take the Leicester match, for instance. Mick Booth and Terry Hopson gave their best display of the season.

John Bayliss and Alan Holder were able to get the ball out to their wings, with the result that Timms scored Gloucester's final try, while Meadows, after going near on two earlier occasions, was only robbed of a try when "touch-in-goal" was ruled.

And the final improvement, as it were? Obviously the place kicking. Five goals landed, with only one try not converted – and then Booth's kick hit an upright.

EIGHT BACKS

The "Tigers" have always been welcome visitors to Kingsholm, for traditionally they play the open type of rucker.

I well remember the days when they were so well equipped for backs that they regular played eight in the back division and seven forwards.

I recall, too, that at one time the Tigers provided all 15 players to the Leicestershire county side in their championship matches.

And included at one period was the former Gloucester forward, the late Gordon Vears, who became a tower of strength in the organising of Rugby football in the midlands.

Older supporters will remember that Gordon was always conspicuous on the field for his very fair shaved head of hair – or lack of it!

A BELLOW

It was perhaps about ten years after the ending of his playing days that I was sitting in a Walsall hotel lounge one evening, waiting for a train to Gloucester.

Suddenly, in walked a big fellow, who shouted to me in a loud voice, "Where do you get your hair cut?" At the same time he took off his cap and I at once saw a head almost as bald as mine.

The jovial fellow was, of course, Gordon Vears, and the outcome of this chance meeting was a very enjoyable evening, with no attempt made to catch that train back to Gloucester.

GOOD SIGN

Reverting to the Gloucester-Leicester match for a brief moment, I can, off-hand, only remember one higher score at Kingsholm in which Leicester players were concerned – and that was against Leicestershire.

The number of points scored was 31, and Gloucestershire at that time were so well off for centres that Bristol's international centre threequarter, Reg Pickles, had to take the full-back berth for the County.

At Kingsholm now we have a first-rate pack of forwards, and against Leicester the combination and co-ordination were excellent.

It is somewhat unusual to report, however, that all Gloucester's points were scored by the backs. A healthy and encouraging sign, at any rate!

JC