

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1961

SO-SUPERIOR GLO'STER COULD HAVE DOUBLED WIN MARGIN !

GLOUCESTER 40PTS., OLD BLUES 3PTS.

This was a procession which should have led to a victory by Gloucester by at least double the number of points they mustered against a weak and ineffectual Old Blues team.

Should have? The home side was so superior – even with eight regular first team men away on county duty – that one felt that Old Blues should really be playing Moseley II XV, and lucky to get the fixture.

And also Gloucester did not take all those opportunities which were handed to them on a plate. There was, let's face it, mishandling by the home side which would have been unforgiveable against a strong opposition.

"BRISTOL FASHION"

The truth is, however, that there would not have been nearly as much handling against a better opposition.

From beginning to end the Red and Whites took this game "Bristol fashion," as the contemporary phrase has it, and had great fun in so doing.

And my feeling is that, in the later stages anyway, the forward handling by such men as Gilbert-Smith, Dick Smith, Alan Brinn and Tug Wilson was in fact, inspired by the home side's capture, Army Captain, David Gilbert-Smith himself. He was cheeky, and, one felt, must have had a rare admiration for gay Gary Mace at scrum-half, who treated the occasion with his determined, light-hearted opportunism, as something of a heaven-sent joke.

I have never seen Gary play better. He led attacks from frequently successful set-scrummages – hooker Reg Chamberlayne was in rare form – and, with his superb dummy, exquisite sense of timing for a pass, and grand touch-kicking, made one wonder how long it will be before he comes storming back to the scrum-half berth with Gloucester. What an attacker!

I would like to have seen Gary – a player in a million – produce this form against a great side. But then who would not? And who could possibly produce this type of scrum-half play against strong opposition? Nobody!

PROMISING PAIR

Both Hopson, who ran well throughout, and Stan Ingram, who is a worthy stand-in for Russell Hillier at full-back, dropped goals. Ingram converted four and Reg Chamberlayne one.

David Munnford scored Blues' single try.

Although Bob Hannaford at wing threequarter did not score he played at least as good a game as Eric Stephens. A promising pair.

UNITED SQUANDERED CHANCES

HEREFORD 3PTS., GLOUCESTER UNITED 8 PTS.

The final score did not reflect Gloucester's measure of superiority in this game at Rockfield-rd., Hereford, for although Hereford fought back gamely towards the end, Gloucester always held the upper hand.

But Gloucester are to be faulted on the shocking handling of their backs, who could have ensured a much more comfortable victory.

Centres Terry Bowkett and Johnny Lowe were the main offenders and squandered many chances set up by the sound play of half-backs Pat Hole and John Spalding.

Gloucester opened the scoring after 25 minutes when winger Colin James warded off two tackles to score in the corner.

Soon after the restart centre Ian Harris equalised for Hereford with a penalty goal.

Outside half Hole saw his drop goal attempt bounce back off the cross bar before lock forward Dave Owen picked up from a set scrum close to the Hereford line and crashed over for a try. Full-back Peter Hawker converted.

JC