

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1961

GLO'STER SELECTORS WERE RIGHT IN MOVING DICK SMITH, BUT . . . ?

GLOUCESTER 9PTS., BATH 3PTS.

The Cherry and Whites chalked up a win when they most needed it, and the selectors were proved right in their selection of Dick Smith in the centre.

These two factors are the most important features of Saturday's game. The fact that it was dull football is unimportant.

Smith, as everyone who has followed Gloucester's fixtures will know, has proved often this season that he is a hard man to stop when he gets into his stride at wing forward.

ATTACKING SPIRIT

He opened Gloucester's score in the first five minutes with a good try but this was not an isolated example of his play; rather it typified his attacking spirit.

Stan Ingram, at full-back, failed with the conversion kick, as he did with both of Peter Meadows' tries which came in the second half.

It was not his day and I should have thought after his form against Oxford it would have been better to replace him with Alan Holder, who was automatic choice in that position at the beginning of last season.

Holder's experience and sense of responsibility make him a hard man to stop, and Eric Stephens, in the centre, was hardly convincing as Holder's replacement.

It would be unfair to drop Bob Hannaford, however, for, though his form was poor, it was plain he had a leg injury which slowed him down on the wing.

And Gerry Mace, at scrum-half, was strangely subdued throughout this game. The famed rocket-like pass from the base of the scrum or from a line-out was often inaccurate and low. His fly-half, Jack Lowe suffered accordingly, though he is not above suspicion.

Many a time he seemed to ignore passing in favour of a hefty boot, either ahead or into touch.

Hal Symonds had a good game in the centre of the back row, likewise Gilbert Smith and Brian Hudson.

But for at least one spectator it will be something of a relief to see the return of John Bayliss to the centre and Russell Hillier at full back.

It is to be hoped they are fit for the Coventry game at Kingsholm next Saturday.

UNITED TRIED HARD TO GET ON TERMS

BATH UNITED 11PTS., GLOUCESTER UNITED 3PTS.

Gloucester United staged a very creditable revival when they were 11pts. down at Bath, on Saturday, and for a long period of the second half they hammered away at the home line, only to be met with a stiff defence and very little luck.

The standard of play did not reach great heights outside the scrum, although some of the forward play, a little over robust, was real good stuff.

Peter Hawker played a great game and centre Terry Bowkett went through grandly on several occasions to make chances which were not turned to advantage.

Osman's try came from splendid handling, but Alan Holder had a pretty gruelling time trying to avoid the Bath wing forwards, Leyshon and Beck.

Gordon Drewett kicked a penalty and converted a try, and saved Bath's pack a lot of work, and might have given the homesters more points with a long drop kick only inches wide.

Cousins and Dawson scored Bath's tries, and on the day's play the home team just about deserved the verdict.

JC