

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 1962

GLO'STER WERE NO MATCH FOR LIVELY FREE-SCORING SCOTTISH

LONDON SCOTTISH 36PTS., GLOUCESTER 5PTS.

Without accusations of bias, one can hardly excuse the score Gloucester conceded to the London Scottish on Saturday, at Richmond.

The statistics are vital in an analysis of the debacle.

But it is partly explicable when you consider that Gloucester's players had not trodden the turf since before Christmas.

Whereas the Scottish were inspired by the presence of no fewer than five trialists, four of whom proved their worth at Murrayfield only a few days before Saturday's romp.

RATHER DULL

Perhaps "romp" suggests entertainment. This would be misleading for it was, despite some fine exhibitions by the London Scottish threes and halves, a rather dull game. I suppose because it was so one-sided.

Although the seal was firmly set when international Ronnie Thomson went for a fast try, in the first minute as it turned out, it did seem early on, that the Cherry and Whites pack could hold its own if conditions suggested a forward game.

Unfortunately, Thomson's try was the forerunner of three he was to score, and the pitch favoured his fast, diagonal dashes to the corner flag.

Even then there was a thrilling moment when the Gloucester pack in full cry – with leader Alan Townsend bellowing exhortations – headed for the hapless ten Bos awaiting a skied kick.

FIERCER, FASTER

The West Country pack looked "West Country" then, as it did in the set scrums.

Unfortunately the game was not dictated by the packs, and once free of the mauls the ball seemed to stick firmly in the hands of the fiercer and faster Scots.

And for giving them time in which to work the London Scottish threes have the slick half-back partnership of Mathieson and Rodd to thank. And, of course, the comparatively leaden feet of the Gloucester backs. Only Hopson looked fast.

All but one of the home team's eight tries came from the threes – Thomson (3), Loughlan (2), Pringle (2), with one from Mathieson and conversions from Boyle (4), Macdonald and Inglis.

HOLDER TRY

Gloucester's single demand for the telegraph operators' attention was a try by centre Alan Holder, which full-back Ingram converted.

And this was really due to a flagrant missed pass by the Scottish full-back, Macdonald; and a snappy interception by Holder, of course.

If Gloucester want to equal Bath's achievement and pull off a double against Leicester away next Saturday they will have to put in some exhaustive training sessions during the week.