

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1962

YOUNGSTERS DID GLO'STER PROUD

BUT THREES WERE A DISAPPOINTMENT

LEICESTER 16PTS., GLOUCESTER 3PTS.

Gloucester's newest and youngest entrants to first-class Rugby, John Spalding and Pat Lane, were certainly in no way to blame for the defeat, at Leicester, on Saturday. They both played a keen and fine game.

Longlevens wing-forward Lane ran well, looking for work, and Spalding, improving weekly to my mind, produced thoroughly convincing form.

He has not got a long touch kick, but he is now much faster at getting rid of the ball, either by boot or with a pass, than in his earlier games.

Once or twice he tried a break on his own, and it was on these occasions that he appeared to have matured and found more confidence.

## FLOUNDERING

By contrast his older and more experienced fly-half Terry Hopson seemed on several occasions to be floundering.

Gloucester must be grateful for his try – the Cherry and Whites' only score – but they cannot really feel pleased about Hopson's apparent loss of impetus after a brilliant-looking start.

Nor can they thank him for the long touch kicks which did not find touch, an unusual fault for Hopson whose kicking is usually excellent.

Russell Hillier, returned to the full-back berth, played well, kicking and tackling with his customary verve.

### DISAPPOINTING

But for the most part the remaining Gloucester backs were a great disappointment, yards slower than the men of Leicester and at fault because they did not tackle hard enough in the earlier stages.

Admittedly Gloucester had the wind with them in the first half, and held their pre-interval lead of three points.

But the change round could not possibly have been worth 16 points to Leicester.

After Senior crossed and Martin converted early in the second half, Leicester never looked back. Martin added a penalty goal and new England cap Wade scored a try.

Prop forward Chawner crossed for the final try, which skipper Martin converted.

### HARD TO EXPLAIN

Gloucester's second half failure is hard to explain. It was evident that after a promising start the "Cherry and White" pack lost some of its enthusiasm.

There will be no room for slackness next Saturday when Gloucester meet their toughest English opponents of the season to date, Wasps.

It is sure to be a hard and exciting game in which, I have no doubt, Gloucester will – because of the odds – produce their best form.

## GREAT TRY BY OSMAN

GLOUCESTER UNITED 8PTS., PONTYPOOL UNITED 5PTS.

If Gloucester United play many more matches like this one at Kingsholm on Saturday they will have to turn to needles and thread on training nights instead of the Rugby ball and plimsolls.

The match was punctuated with actions which would have fitted the wrestling ring better than Kingsholm.

Nevertheless, there were some really thrilling moments. One was the try by Tony Osman – possibly the best by a United player so far this season – which notched the first three points.

He dived over the line in a movement as graceful as one from "Swan Lake" and, to a certain extent, this made up for the scrapping.

Terry Bowkett worked hard for United's second line-crossing and although not as spectacular as that of Osman, he managed to touch down directly under the posts making full-back Stan Ingram's job much easier.