

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1962

LIVELY BRISTOL TOO ENTERPRISING FOR GLO'STER

BRISTOL 23 Pts., GLOUCESTER NIL

In the early part of the debacle at the Memorial Ground on Saturday it seemed that there was no department in which Gloucester could master the enterprising Bristol side.

The first six scrums went against them, indicating Bristol's superiority forward. In consequence the half backs were starved and the threes, too.

And, although from a strictly technical point of view full-back Russell Hillier was catching and kicking with customary accuracy, the swift directional changes of Redwood and Blake, Bristol's half-back pair, too often found him out of position.

It was commonplace to see both Hillier and (say) Ellery, the Bristol winger, chasing the ball at the same time.

The home hooker, John Thorne, anyway got the first six strikes, one against the head, and they were mostly clean heels into the bargain.

Once the ball was clear of the scrum, Redwood made very sure that he used it to advantage.

Likewise Messrs, Ellery, Watts, Godson and Weeks, the Bristol threes, all of whom had the confidence to hold long enough to draw their Gloucester counterparts – particularly Godson, who played an exemplary centre game, which had more than a touch of the enterprising fly-half about it.

Because of an early blast from Mr. D. O. H. Davies's tirelessly strident whistle for, I believe, a late tackle, Hal Symonds, at wing forward, seemed ill at ease in the wing forward position. He tried hard to find the form which produced that thrilling and historic tackle in the same game last season.

And when Gloucester's pack did start to get the ball – Brian Hudson's line out work was often clean and decisive – there was little penetration by the backs.

Centre Eric Stephens, with his long-legged stride, seemed the most dangerous man – in possession, and co-centre Alan Holden made his customary use of the diagonal kick.

It is useless to argue that conditions did not favour the open game. They did not, of course; but this didn't seem to bother Bristol whose handling in the circumstances was occasionally inspired and generally several streets ahead of Gloucester's.

IN SECOND HALF

Territorially the game was about 80 to 20 per cent. in favour of the home team and most of Gloucester's 20 per cent. came in the second half and was attributable to the pack and some useful touch kicks by Terry Hopson, who was tied down to early passing (and those kicks) because of the inconsistency of his scrum-half John Spalding.

Blake opened the scoring early in the first half with a dropped goal, almost insulting in its casualness. There followed three tries – by Godson, Weeks and Ellery, the last being converted by John New.

Wing-forward Davies opened the second half account with a try and that dashing wing-man Ellery scored another two.

And so to Bath.

UNITED, TOO, OUTCLASSED

GLOUCESTER UNITED 3PTS., BRISTOL UNITED 24PTS.

The official tally is 24pts.–3, but ask anyone who was in the stand at Kingsholm on Saturday and they'll tell you that the score should have been 19pts.–3.

This is why: Bristol United's Collings dashed along, parallel to the main stand, running into touch and out again before passing to Lewis who crossed for Bristol's second try. The Bristol linesman had apparently not spotted the incident, for he did not put his flag up.

POOR TACKLING

And now for Gloucester United. Tackling below the knee by them was [1, 2 words unreadable] except for a few by John Bayliss. The threes were in the worst shape for some time – unable to take or give a definite pass and absolutely outclassed by their Bristol counterparts.

In short, this was one of those games Gloucester want to forget. Bristol try scorers were Collins (2), Morris (2), Lewis and Fry, with Cripps converting three. Gloucester's three points came from a penalty by full-back Stan Ingram.