

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1962

INTERESTING 'OPEN' BATTLE AT KINGSHOLM

GLOUCESTER ENTERPRISE EARNS NARROW VERDICT

GLOUCESTER 5PTS., SWANSEA 3PTS.

If Gloucester had the best of Saturday's match from a territorial point of view, Swansea were masters of the finer arts of Rugby.

They looked the better side and one is at a loss to know how a side with so much ability could have been kept down.

One explanation could be determined tackling by the home side, another the improved mobility of the pack in the open.

The line-outs did not go in favour of Gloucester for much of the game because of the prodigious J. Clifford, reputed to be one of the best line-out men in Wales. But when they did, one noticed Ken Wilson, the R.A.F. forward, who came in for the injured Peter Ford, pulling more than his weight.

Gloucester led in the first half by 5pts. to nil. Centre Alan Holder scored a try which full back Russell Hillier converted. And thereafter there was to be no further scoring from the home side.

Dewi Bebb scored for Swansea, but Mainwaring could not convert.

That was the scoring for the afternoon, but the game remained interesting. Both sides were frequently under pressure, and with the exception of a few patches when the kick for touch was more frequent than it should have been, the ball was thrown about with gay abandon.

ENCOURAGING

There was one occasion when the forwards, halves and threes all handled for Gloucester. Hardly any ground was gained, but it was great to see so many passes from hand to hand. It was encouraging to see that Gloucester handlers could outwit the men of Swansea almost casually.

Scrum-half John Spalding played his best game to date, likewise Hal Symonds, in the middle of the back row, who has got back into his stride.

Full-back Hillier played well, catching and kicking with his usual expertise, and once again Alan Holder seemed to be setting the pace, setting the example in the centre.

Perhaps when all is said and done a draw would have been a fairer result to an exciting game.

COSTLY UNITED GAPS

PONTYPOOL UNITED 24 Pts.
GLOUCESTER UNITED NIL

The "roll-off" from the line-out perfected by the French National XV was aimed at striking at the weakest part of the defence – the gap between the scrum-half and the forwards.

Pontypool United, on Saturday, used a variation of this play to great effect against Gloucester United.

At the set scrums the home side won a larger share of the ball and repeatedly Malson or Grey, the half-backs, would feint to link with their backs and then pass back to the forwards. With the Gloucester cover defence marking the centres, the Pontypool wing forwards, Williams and Stanley, had a field day.

Not only did they score a try apiece but they paved the way for several others.

Apart form this weakness, Gloucester put up a stern fight forward, but were beaten by a slicker, faster side.

JC