

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 1962

PACK PUT GLOUCESTER ON TOP – TOO LATE

NORTHAMPTON 17 Pts., GLOUCESTER 10 Pts.

This was a typical away game for Gloucester who were confused by the early energy of Northampton's attacks and later, re-grouped and re-organised, sailed into vengeful forays which did much to redress the balance.

The Saints were all over Gloucester in the first half. They scored all their points to a reply of only five from Gloucester in the pre-interval flurry, after which they began to look more and more mediocre.

Finally, as the no-side whistle boomed up, Gloucester looked the fitter and stronger side, with a pack capable of crushing Northampton if only it had the time !

ENTERPRISING

It is safe to say that no-one on the Gloucester side produced very good form in the first half – except perhaps Dave Owen who is one of the most enterprising loose forwards in the club.

Even the reliable Russell Hillier, at full-back seemed flustered at the outset. And during this time Northampton crossed the Gloucester line five times. Hosen, Underwood, Leslie, Townsend and Sykes all scored tries, Hosen converting one.

Peter Ford inspired Gloucester's reply when he intercepted and put Tony Osman over. Hillier converted.

Gloucester's revival of form seemed to begin with the determined tackling of the backs. Holder and Bayliss kept Underwood and Leslie well under control.

DANGEROUS

Sykes on the wing was always a danger and looked a more likely international than Underwood on the day's play. Once Dickie Jeeps, the indestructible scrum-half, used him as a fly-half, and the move produced a try by Sykes.

Then the Gloucester pack became more fiery and determined. Roy Long jumped and caught cleanly in the line-outs, and some of his catches and passes to John Spalding were the smartest to be seen in the Gloucester pack this season. Hooker Ken Taylor got more of the ball too, in the second half.

And Hal Symonds seems to have reclaimed his last season's middle-of-the-bank position; although I am sure that Tony Davies, the best lock in the club, hitherto, is more at home there than at wing forward. Wherever he plays he does his best and that is often good enough for the best.

SOUND

Jack Lowe played a sound, workmanlike game at fly-half, and despite the fact that he could give John Spalding all of 13 years that old youngster Dickie Jeeps still looked like a useful player ! Spalding was not impressed, however, and did not damage his reputation any by the comparison.

'EXILES' SHOW CLASS

GLOUCESTER UNITED 24 PTS.
CHELTENHAM UNITED 5 PTS.

The difference between first fifteen and United standards was clearly illustrated during this match at Kingsholm on Saturday.

Terry Hopson and Dick Smith, both temporarily exiled from the premier side, stood out a mile from the other 28 players. On numerous occasions Smith raced through the Cheltenham ranks with his colleagues far behind.

And then Hopson – a crowd-pleaser if ever there was one – with his neat receiving of the ball and dash through the Cheltenham threequarter line to touch down completed a picture of efficient and thrilling play.

Gloucester United scrum-half Mike Cooper and full-back Stan Ingram also deserve praise for their efficiency.

EXTRA THREEQUARTER

Cooper was quick to deliver the ball from the scrum and Ingram once again nipped into the "extra man" berth in the threes.

Gloucester United's tries came from King, Hopson (3), and Timms, with Ingram and Day converting. Cheltenham gleaned their mere five points from a try by Bassett, converted by Simms.