

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1962

UNPREDICTABLE GLO'STER INSPIRED BY BOOTH

GLOUCESTER 14 Pts., RICHMOND 11 Pts.

Just as the Gloucester fans began to despair, the local boys pull off a surprising win which renews faith and interest in their fortunes.

After a black October in which they lost all their games, the Cherry and Whites beat powerful Leicester resoundingly and after two defeats on the trot they put 19 points on Wasps in January. A couple of weeks ago they beat Swansea.

The mighty Coventry and Bristol have both fallen to Gloucester this season. On Saturday Gloucester wrecked the undefeated record of Richmond which dated from last November.

What can one say about Gloucester except that they are perhaps the least predictable side in Rugby football.

Much seems to depend on the mood of the first few minutes. And yet one cannot even be definite on this point for on Saturday when the lusty men of Richmond had notched a lead and were pressing hard, Gloucester should have wilted. They did not.

They attacked the visitors' line again and again and by half-time had secured a comfortable lead of seven points.

Hal Symonds, Peter Ford and Terry Hopson had all crossed the line and there seemed to be plenty of opportunity to score more points still, under the inspired generalship of Mick Booth, the home scrum-half.

He played one of his most watchful and intelligent games, always coolly cheeky and full of ideas.

In the second half Dykes and Orr were allowed to cross for Richmond and the Londoners' very able full-back, Holmes, was able to kick the points for the former's try. Gloucester's Hillier was successful with only one kick.

But – and there is no partisan bias in this remark – the visitors second half tally of seven points was against the run of play. Nevertheless, if it had not been for Tony Rickett's try – from a tap by Alan Townsend to Booth, who gave the prop his pass – the game would have been drawn. And Richmond must be congratulated for coming back so gamely.

Booth's consistency – aided by a fiery home pack and good hooking by Ken Taylor – doubtless gave Gloucester confidence.

Otherwise, players such as Ford, Symonds, Dick Smith (who at wing-forward had one brilliant run which put Hopson over), Jackie Lowe (shining determinedly in the centre) and Eric Stephens, his hard-tackling partner, all contributed to a most encouraging victory.