

THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1962

GLO'STER, TWICE BEHIND, STILL BEAT R.A.F.

RUSSELL HILLIER'S TWO LATE CONVERSIONS CLINCHED WIN

GLOUCESTER 9 PTS., R.A.F. 6 PTS.

Gloucester won yesterday, and were lucky to do so, against a more adept team of handlers whose backs were considerably livelier than Gloucester's.

The encouraging feature of this game for Gloucester must surely be the tremendous form of Hal Symonds in the line-outs, where Gloucester were clear winners; and the showing of 17-year-old John Spalding at scrum-half.

The young half-back had a formidable opponent in the Gloucester and R.A.F. player, Mick Booth, yet managed to appear fully equal to the situation. His dive pass was easily as good as Booth's.

But the R.A.F. side had in C. Williams, at outside-half, a player more able to weave and dodge and generally make something out of nothing, than Gloucester's Terry Hopson who did not appear particularly able on yesterday's form.

FELL DOWN

If Symonds was high on the list of star performers for Gloucester his opposite number, Leighton Jenkins, must occupy the same place in the R.A.F. team. He played a splendid game in the line-outs and loose.

And Glastonbury, Brown and Keepe of the R.A.F. three-quarter line were all, particularly Brown, capable of producing excellent, thoughtful and intelligent play.

Jack Lowe, whom I believe, I saw switching to fly-half once, played quite well in the centre. The Airmen had them well-marked, however.

NEAT TRY

Jenkins opened the R.A.F. score with a penalty and in the 25th minute Hal Symonds, Gloucester's lock forward, scored the neatest try to be seen for some time.

Symonds had been jumping superbly in the lines-out and passing accurately to Spalding. He made his best and most limpet-fingered catch when the stronger home pack was five yards in from the R.A.F. try-line, and grounded the ball in one smooth movement.

Glastonbury scored a beauty for R.A.F., a flying special on the Gloucester left flank and this put the visitors once again in the lead.

It was left to Russell Hillier to square the account and score the winning points with two good penalties in the second half.

TEAMS

For Gloucester, Peter Ford, Tony Ricketts, Alan Brinn and Roy Long all had a good game – and, please note, they are all members of the pack.

Gloucester: R. Hillier; J. Bayliss, E. Stephens, J. Lowe, P. Meadows; T. Hopson, J. Spalding; A. Townsend, K. Taylor, A. Ricketts, A. Brinn, R. Long, P. Ford, H. Symonds, D. Smith.

R.A.F.: F/O A. John; LAC R. Glastonbury, F/O H. J. C. Brown, P/O J. Keepe, Cpl. D. Harries; LAC C. Williams, LAC M. Booth; Cpl. K. Wilson, LAC H. Berry, F/Lt. D. H. Murphy, J/T R. Glazsher, F/O S. Mulligan, F/O A. Wright, F/O L. Jenkins, F/O J. Parsons.