

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1962

VACCINATION-HIT GLO'STER HAD A DIFFICULT TASK AT NEWPORT

NEWPORT 9 Pts., GLOUCESTER NIL

Gloucester usually give Newport an uncomfortable time, even if they have not beaten the Welsh club for six years, but the depleted Kingsholm side were rather the underdogs when they failed to reply to three pretty tries at Rodney Parade on Saturday night, writes a special correspondent.

Full-back Russell Hillier and pivot Terry Hopson withdrew from the Gloucester side en route for Newport. They were under the effects of smallpox vaccination and after a hasty reshuffle Tony Osman and Mike Cooper were the only Gloucester backs to field as originally selected.

Of course Newport, 23–11 victors at Kingsholm on October 21, were without Welsh internationals Bryn Meredith and Glyn Davidge, but still had seven internationals in a combination who had most things their own way.

The Gloucester backs were hounded from all angles and soon found their line threatened when they were buffeted and forced into handling errors.

They soon abandoned their hasty efforts at turning defence into open attack and concentrated unsuccessfully on trying to keep it close and contain the Newport slick back division.

FLYING TACKLES

Gloucester lacked any systematic covering defence. Apart from some hard flying tackles by overworked Peter Ford they usually halted Welsh internationals Peter Reece and Brian Jones by sheer weight of numbers.

Tony Osman was consistently lost by speedster Byron Thomas, who made Newport's first half tries and got one himself a minute from time.

A series of five Gloucester men was breached by Thomas before Brian Price crossed over wide out for a try which Norman Morgan failed to improve. Morgan narrowly missed a penalty as well as two other touch-line conversions.

50-YARD SPRINT

A desperate tackle by Alan Holder was too late to stop racing Reece scoring in the corner, climax of a 50 yard solo sprint.

The besieged Gloucester line had half-a-dozen amazing escapes before Thomas got over. Stray clearance attempts earned Gloucester little respite and their sporadic threequarter raids petered out through weak cross-kicking.

Ken Taylor and Harold Symonds were Gloucester's best loose attackers but sadly lacked support in their breakaway drives.

Gloucester: A. Holder; T. Osman, M. Maybury, P. Meadows, R. Timms; J. Lowe, M. Cooper; A. Townsend (capt.), K. Taylor, J. Herbert, R. Long, B. Hudson, P. Ford, H. Symonds, T. Davis.

Newport: N. Morgan; B. Thomas, T. Pope, D. Perrott, P. Reece; B. Jones (capt.), R. Prosser; D. Greenslade, T. Edmunds, N. Johnson, I. Ford, B. Price, B. Creswell, R. Webb, A. Thomas.

BAD LUCK FOR UNITED

GLOUCESTER UNITED NIL
NEWPORT UNITED 21 Pts.

It was somewhat ironical that the architect of United's defeat on Saturday should be a former United player, Ian James, the Crypt school-master who once rated a Welsh trial at fly-half.

James was very lively throughout and succeeded in showing up Gloucester's paucity behind the scrum.

The only Gloucester player who seemed to have the measure of the game behind the home "eight" was Stan Ingram, at full-back, whose positioning and kicking was always reliable.

FULL DAY

For the rest it was the United pack which kept the home flag flying.

Mike Maybury, who played an excellent game – hard and intelligent – certainly had a day of it. He only had time to change before both he and that other good clubman, Tony Davis, shot off to Gloucester's Central Station bound for Newport and another game, this time for the premier side under floodlights.

The home side were eight points down at half-time. R. Charlton and D. Jones scored tries, of which B. Edwards converted one.

After the interval Jones again crossed twice and P. John scored another. Edwards and Laurent converted one apiece.