

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 9, 1962

POWER PACK WON THE DAY –

AS CARDIFF FUMBLER

GLOUCESTER 6 Pts., CARDIFF NIL

Just in case anyone thinks this was a great victory let it be understood that the Cardiff backs played like a collection of skin-divers grappling for possession of a giant cake of soap.

This was not altogether surprising, considering the loss of fly-half McCarthy in the pre-interval period and the subsequent re-organisation of the line when he returned to play on the wing.

But their sadly slow and slippery-fingered form was still a disappointment to those who would rather have seen Gloucester lose to good handling than win by a couple of place kicks.

The home backs by comparison were hardly employed at all. What they did, they did adequately but it was scrum-half Mick Booth's policy – sensible in view of the dangerous potential of the Cardiff threequarter line – to give his pack as much work as possible.

And when the Welshmen did attempt to open the game up the Gloucester tacklers were much in evidence.

FINE KICKS

Gloucester, too, must thank fly-half Terry Hopson for a fine game. His touch-kicking was just what Booth ordered, and got the home side out of one or two nasty situations.

Naturally enough, with the accent on fiery forward play, there were several errors which led to penalty kicks, and Gloucester must surely be grateful to Cardiff's wing forward, D. J. Hayward, for his enthusiasm.

It twice brought him off-side and twice Russell Hillier, the home full-back, scored penalty points in the first half.

#### IN GREAT FORM

Mick Booth was in rare form and must surely accede to the title, the "India rubber man" of Rugby, now that other distinguished scrum-half is to end his first-class career.

Finally, the Cherry and White pack was again supreme.

Skipper Alan Townsend must surely feel pleased with its performances this season, with wins recorded against such mighty opponents as Bristol, Coventry, Leicester, Wasps, Swansea, Richmond, and now Cardiff.

It was mostly the pack which won these matches, and on Saturday, Townsend, Ken Taylor, John Herbert, Roy Long, Brian Hudson, Peter Ford, Tony Davis and Dick Smith confirmed one in the view that, in open or tight forward encounters, it takes the best to best them.

Of the Gloucester threes, Jack Lowe produced the pluckiest performance, and outshone his colleagues.

#### UNITED WORTHY WINNERS

CLEVE ..... 5 PTS.  
GLOUCESTER UTD. ... 11 PTS.

Gloucester United were worthy winners. They were the better balanced side, and employed methods which had the opposition in a tangle.

Considering the gale-force wind and the slippery state of the ground the game was an excellent one.

United held a distinct advantage at forward, and behind the scrums were equal to the opposition.

Even Ron Parry, who is now a committeeman and returned after a lapse of six years, did not let United down.

James crossed after 15 minutes, and a few moments before the interval Simmonds also went over for an unconverted try.

After the change-over King crossed for Day to add the extra points.

A late second half rally saw Cleve fighting back strongly and they scored through Turnell, Rees converting.