

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 16, 1962

TOP-FORM PONTYPOOL THREES WERE MATCH WINNERS

PONTYPOOL 19 Pts., GLOUCESTER 6

Just before the match, on Saturday, a Welsh supporter said to former international Ray Prosser, who watched from the sidelines: "You watch, man, these Gloucester boys will try to keep it to the pack."

Indeed, the Cherry and Whites succeeded in this during the first half and it began to look as if Pontypool could do with Ray Prosser's know-how in the forward melees.

Mike Nicholls achieved some prodigious heels and the pack was whipped into enthusiasm by skipper Alan Townsend's vocal and physical example.

Needless to say, Russell Hillier, at full-back, Terry Hopson (fly-half) and John Spalding (scrum-half) all used the line more than somewhat.

THRILLING SPELL

But that was in the first half! The post interval period produced the most thrilling spell of try-scoring I have seen for many a day. Those Pontypool threequarters! Rarely can one have had the opportunity of seeing such insolent assurance as in the second half on Saturday.

Outstanding among them was left-centre Ray Watkins, whose cunningly delayed side-step was a joy to watch and always succeeded in foxing the slower Gloucester opposition.

Territorially the game was Gloucester's while the Cherry and Whites dictated a forward encounter. But the back potential was bound to tell in the long run.

RECOVERED WELL

Bad defensive errors gave the Welshmen an early try – by Watkins, converted by Roy Cheney – but Gloucester recovered well and at half time Pontypool were still only five points up.

Fenton Coles then went over and Russell Hillier chalked up the first Gloucester points with a penalty goal.

Watkins scored again, likewise Coles, who charged down a Hillier clearance kick.

Hillier, by the way, was very overworked.

Terry Hopson was showing considerable speed and accuracy in his kicking at this stage, and twice gave his forwards a chance with stupendous touch-finders.

The second kick and John Herbert's smart take in the line-out gave him the chance to make Gloucester's only other score.

PRESENCE OF MIND

He banged over a longish drop goal with fine presence of mind.

It remained for John Warwood to add another try and Cheney to convert for Gloucester's defeat to be complete.

Herbert, Phil Lane and Peter Ford were all much in evidence in this game.

Cheer up, Gloucester. They were very exceptional threes, those Pontypool lads. International football knows Coles. Watch out for the names of Mike Cooper, Ray Watkins and John Warwood next season.

POSITIONAL CHANGES UNSETTLED UNITED

GLOUCESTER UTD. ... 3 Pts.

ABERCARN 6 Pts.

Positional changes which did not work out were the major factor in Gloucester United's defeat at Kingsholm last Saturday.

Stan Ingram, usually full-back for the United, although working hard at outside-half, was obviously not happy at times. He tended to stray, when danger threatened, back to assist John Bayliss. John, in turn, while showing a safe pair of hands and a cool head as last line of defence, was obviously itching to run, run, run with the ball.

60-YARD DASH

Bayliss's itch got the better of him once in the second half, when United staged a rally, and he beat man after man in a 60-yard dash, which was the spectacle of the afternoon.

Abercarn were too solid, however, and J. Fowke's penalty for United was not enough to win the game. Abercarn captain K. Doody kicked a penalty, and forward P. Shropshsall scored a try to give them a deserved win.