

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1962

GARY WHITE SETS GLOUCESTER SELECTORS A PROBLEM

PONTYPOOL 9PTS., GLOUCESTER 8PTS.

Gary White, making his first-class debut with Gloucester on Saturday, has presented the selectors with a problem.

For Gary played a blinder.

But so did his wing forward partner, Dick Smith and so, report has it, did Gloucester's long-time master of wing forward opportunism, Peter Ford when he led the Western Club "eight" at Exeter against the Canadians.

That's the selectors' problem, however.

My immediate problem is to explain how Pontypool, who finished the game with only 13 men, still managed to beat Gloucester.

The "Cherry and Whites" had the best of the game territorially and, so far as their new-found trickery and guile is concerned, outwitted the Welsh side on more than one occasion.

FOOLED THEM

We again saw the dummy dive pass to skipper, Mick Booth – who played another exemplary match – foxing Pontypool on two occasions, and the simulated throw after a tap penalty; not to mention Ron Pitt's almost invisible reverse pass to his centre partner, John Bayliss.

If this kind of thing continues, Gloucester will add to their reputation for strength in the pack, that of cunning among the backs. More than one Welsh critic burst out with remarks like: "Look at that trick, man. Why don't our lads try something like that?"

The truth is that their lads did not have to. Before the heavy loss of Ray Watkins and Benny Jones there always seemed to be too many Welsh backs on the field.

And this, to my mind, indicates that Gloucester were found wanting in defensive covering or, alternatively, the wily Welshmen could see in a sudden instinctive flash that an extra man with the threes could help find the gap.

John Harris, Fenton Coles and Will Morris all proved the truth of this with tries in the first half.

Gloucester's try in the first half came when Gary White scored on the blind side after Booth had performed his dummy-dive-pass.

TOOK THEIR CHANCES

In short, the Welshmen took the few opportunities they were given, for their lead was well against the territorial run of play.

Brian Hudson scored Gloucester's other try in the second half, and Booth made it a goal.

Gloucester should have won this game. The pack played well and so did Booth.

The fault lay further back where there was an inability to finish off moves with the confidence with which they were started.

They say it's difficult for an English team to win in Pontypool, and it's true. But Gloucester should have won this match.

UNITED'S BIG LEAD ALMOST WIPED OUT

GLOUCESTER UNITED 19Pts.

COVENTRY EXTRA 1ST'S.17Pts.

To use the modern parlance, Gloucester United were decidedly "with it" for much of this excellent match at Kingsholm, and with the approach of the last quarter of the game were all set to romp home to a runaway victory with a lead of 19 points to 3.

Then came a remarkable late scoring spree by the lively Coventry side which ended with a simple conversion attempt – which would have put the visitors on level terms – being missed.

The Midlanders began by shaking United out of their early lethargy with an unconverted try from winger Flanagan.

The United pack gradually gained the upper hand, and with outside-half Richard Clutterbuck, Gary Mace and Ron Owen figureheads of some telling attacks by the back division, an interval lead was almost inevitable.

Russell Hillier, a model of cool efficiency at full-back, equalised with a penalty goal and United shot ahead with unconverted tries by Barry Jackson and Peter Hawker.

When, shortly after the resumption, Hillier converted further tries by Bob Smith and Peter Hawker, a scoring spree was visualised. It came, but from an unexpected direction.

Evans kicked two penalty goals, converted a try by Morecambe – then felt like kicking himself as he missed the simplest of conversion shots after Brookes had touched down by the posts !

Despite this exhilarating late flurry by Coventry, United were worthy winners of a game that was full of incident throughout.