

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1962

GLOUCESTER COMPLETELY OUTCLASSED

COVENTRY 34PTS., GLOUCESTER NIL

Gloucester were trodden into the turf at Coventry on Saturday, in a game that lacked lustre, finesse and everything else which adds up to fast, exciting Rugby.

On paper, the Gloucester side looked sturdy, even formidable; in practice they proved decidedly disjointed.

The forwards seemed very reluctant to throw the ball about, with the result that the threes were starved in all but the set scrums.

But when the ball did come cleanly from the scrums it was the dash of stand-off Richard Clutterbuck that gained Gloucester a tremendous amount of ground.

The injury which Clutterbuck sustained comparatively early in the game came as a bitter blow to the Cherry and Whites.

RE-SHUFFLING

The three-quarter line lost its effectiveness by one half when play resumed with Jackie Lowe at stand-off and Hal Symonds moving from the pack to the left centre berth.

One might have been inclined to admire Clutterbuck for re-appearing before half-time, but this caused yet another shuffle and when he trailed off again before full-time Gloucester were in a state of confusion.

With Wilson, Wetson, and Herbert forming the front row of the pack, and Brinn, Hudson, Symonds (when he was there), Dave Owen, and White providing the extra weight the opposing Coventry forwards were held in the set scrums.

But in the loose, it was different altogether.

THREES WEAK

Despite the fact that the pack moved with fair speed they were hardly every really with the ball.

Not once did a Gloucester forward capture the ball in a loose maul and then hook it back to scrum half Garry Mace or anyone else who was ready to take it away to the threes.

Yet the forwards were not really the weak link in the side. It was the threes who were not as fast or as strong as their counterparts and, although they did not see their fair share of the ball, when they were in possession Coventry players invariably intercepted and took the ball on through to the Gloucester line.

TOO MANY CLASHES

Scrum half George Cole opened the Coventry scoring with a penalty in the 15th minute. Before half-time a try by Dalton, converted by Cooke, increased their tally to 8pts., and then in the second half tries by Cooke (2), Davies, Godwin, and Melville with a penalty by Jackson, gave them their 34-point win.

Both sides let the ethics of the game go by the board with front-to-front clashes between forwards and threequarters dominating a game which could have proved an entertaining encounter if both sides had thought more . . . and schemed their way through instead of trying to use juggernaut tactics.

HILLIER STARS IN WORTHY UNITED WIN

PONTYPOOL UNITED 11PTS.

GLOUCESTER UNITED 13PTS.

Despite the handicap of being without nine of their regular team Gloucester United's determination paid off at Pontypool and rewarded them with a just victory.

For the first 25 minutes it was a bitter struggle for supremacy with the home team looking the more dangerous, but the first score went to Gloucester with a fine 40-yards penalty goal by full-back, Russell Hillier.

Hillier was, in fact, the mainstay of Gloucester's defence and his strong kicking spelt disaster for many of Pontypool's attacking moves.

Only minutes after his penalty, Hillier put the ball between the posts again when he converted L. Balham's try.

Pontypool replied just before the half-time whistle with a penalty by John Larcombe, and on the resumption went ahead when Gordon Hinnern[*sic*] and Haydn Lilly crossed the Gloucester line, Larcombe converting one.

The game was decided after prop Mike Nicholls barged over the Pontypool line for Hillier to convert.