

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1962

DEPLETED WIZARDS FOUND NEW 'DEVIL' TO BEAT GLO'STER

ABERAVON 6PTS., GLOUCESTER 3PTS.

It was a pity, for two very good reasons, that an Aberavon forward had to be ordered off the field during the latter half of this game on Saturday.

Firstly it seemed to me to be hardly justified and resulted in even uglier scenes between heated packs and secondly it infused a devilish new life into the Aberavon team.

They say that Englishmen rise to an occasion. So, evidently, do Welshmen. For, having lost the initiative in the first half when Gloucester appeared by far the more enterprising and adventurous team, they stormed back after Omri Jones' departure, with a crippling will to succeed in spite of their misfortune.

It is always a mistake to comment from the isolation (though not always comfort) of the press-box upon on-field disputes.

WELSHMEN LOST

I will merely say that there was one between Gloucester fly-half Terry Hopson and the man who marked him. The Welshman lost and received his marching orders.

In the first half anyway Gloucester looked the better side. Bravely they ignored conditions – which were the worst I have seen for many a day – and played splendid open football.

The threes were well linked with the pack by Hopson and skipper Mickie Booth and the forwards played with great fire.

Notable, too, was Alan Holder, the Gloucester full-back making an extra man in the threes.

In fact it was prop forward Ken Wilson, celebrating his county selection no doubt, who scored first in the match. He collected a ball which went loose in one of the many fierce mauls and dived across the line wide out.

But, as I say, Aberavon rose to the occasion and equalised in the next minute with a try by the hapless wing forward Jones.

NOT SURPRISING

Neither try was converted; not surprising when one considered the angles and slippery mud the day's kickers had to contend with.

Anyway Gloucester were not daunted and ended the first half with tails well up and the tendency to throw it about still very much in evidence.

Here it is worth recording, however, that Mickie Booth was chiefly notable for his clever use of the touch-line and his close attention to the needs of his pack.

Their mood was lusty, the weather was inclement and they were all looking for warming work. Brian Hudson was particularly notable in this respect.

GLOUCESTER FALTERED

Strangely enough when Gloucester acquire the advantage of a strong following wind their form seemed to falter.

Perhaps, though, it was Aberavon, stung by what they obviously thought was the injustice of the Jones incident, who got a real grip after the break.

Certainly Gloucester are to be congratulated on their defence which stood up to a terrible battering from the determined, angry Wizards – and only gave in the final minute when prop forward Alan Bamsey scored a last try.

With great respect to the internationally-famous Welsh hospitality, I don't think I would have enjoyed the beer-up if Gloucester had won !

UNITED ALL THE WAY

GLO'STER UTD. 27 PTS.
BARGOED 3 PTS.

One of the first things that a Bargoed player asked on his arrival at Kingsholm was: "Have they been beaten here?"

The implication was, presumably, that if United did have an unbeaten home record, they had better look to their laurels if they wished to maintain it.

Unfortunately for the Welshmen, things did not go according to plan – if indeed there ever was a plan.

They were far too weak and ineffectual to do anything other than to harry the United defence from time to time.

The only flashes of excitement were provided by the United threes – and sometimes a loose-running forward – as they bore down on the hapless Myron Hughes, the Bargoed full-back.

United were strengthened by the inclusion of centre-threequarter Jeremy Taylor who, after a long absence, now hopes to play regularly for Gloucester.

His progress in the next few weeks will no doubt be watched with interest by the Gloucester selectors.

United scorers were: Mace, Jackson, Davis, Smith, and Maybury, tries; Hillier, two penalties and three conversions.

Burrows dropped a goal for the visitors.

JC