

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1962

GLO'SHIRE PACK SPEARHEAD FINE WIN

DEVON NIL., GLOUCESTERSHIRE 14PTS.

Devon hopes of either a win or a draw to clinch the South Western group title were completely shattered at Torquay on Saturday when a scientific and confident Gloucestershire XV gave them a lesson in first-class rugby.

Even when Gloucestershire were three points ahead Devon had a chance to equalise but let it slip through their fingers.

Full-back Derek Atkins unbelievably missed a penalty goal from only 20 yards out, which, if it had been successful, would at least have put both sides on a level footing again.

TURNING POINT

And it was this penalty which proved the turning point in the match. The possible three points which had been thrown away made Devon an even more dispirited side while Gloucester[*sic*] were spurred on to completely crumble their opponents.

Right from the start Gloucestershire dominated a somewhat muddy game, but the mud did little to deter skipper Peter Ford and his seven henchmen in the pack.

Fiery, fast and formidable – that was the Gloucester[*sic*] forwards who crunched their way through their Devon counterparts and were only prevented from scoring in the first half by stringent defensive measures which only just held out.

As for the backs, scrum half Trevor Wintle gave a good service to stand off John Blake and he was quick to see the interception opportunity as well as the ground-gaining kick to touch.

John Bayliss and Laurie Watts combined better than had been expected in the centre, and John Hampton also helped to give the threes a tremendous amount of speed for he always covered as much ground as he could before passing – he often left it until the very last minute – to Bayliss, who was nearly always right behind him.

The first nail in Devon's coffin came 18 minutes after half-time, when John Blake began a movement just inside the Devon half. The ball went astray but seconds later John Hampton was there to intercept a pass from Devon skipper Dick Manley.

By this time play had reached the Devon 25, and Wintle passed back to fly-half John Blake, who was in just the position to take it over the Devon line and touch down.

WELL JUDGED

Eight minutes later came the penalty which Atkins missed, and from then on Gloucestershire had it all their own way.

As if showing Atkins "how to do it," Laurie Watts kicked a beautifully judged penalty goal from no less than 45 yards out and then John Hampton touched down after a forward rush had piled up on the Devon line.

Finally, John Bayliss saw his chance and nipped through from the 25 for a try converted by Watts, which left Devon completely nonplussed – and 14pts. behind.