

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1963

ALL THE WIZARD PLAY CAME FROM ABERAVON

GLOUCESTER 8PTS., ABERAVON 16PTS.

Oh, what a depressing performance! From the outset the Gloucester backs – with the exception of full-back Alan Holder – snatched, grabbed, fumbled and slithered like a collection of "Extra B" players at the end of the Easter tour.

For the greater part of their uneven encounter there was little or no constructive thought by Gloucester whose threes lay, continually, so flat that even if the ball came their way, they were all lined up for head-on tackles by the faster Welshmen.

It was evident that the slow home backs were feeling the frustrations this situation engenders and accordingly relied on the battering-ram technique of ignorance rather than the side-step, the cunningly-timed pass, the dummy or the pace variation.

Mention of the dummy does bring to mind skipper Mickie Booth's dummy dive-pass which fooled the Welsh back row and resulted in Dave Owen at lock dancing over for the single try of the first half.

Then B. Hullin, the Aberavon scrum-half, equalised and their winger, I. Thomas, put the visitors ahead with another try which full-back Graham Young converted.

Not surprisingly, a member of Gloucester's strong and efficient pack, wing forward Dick Smith, scored for Gloucester and Booth converted.

And then Gloucester, pressing home an attack which seemed capable of putting them ahead – the pack was again mainly instrumental in this – were careless of defence when a concerted Welsh foot-rush broke through into the open field.

There was nobody in the Gloucester side fast enough to catch international centre P. Thomas and more to the point, there was nobody in the rear to stop his 60 yard run.

After this Gloucester were really lost and it remained only for Hullin to chalk up a dropped goal for the rout to be completed.

This is the second time that Gloucester have been beaten by an Aberavon side with only 14 men. Last time this happened I remarked that they played better with 14 men.

Now I am tempted to think that they "lose" one player on purpose !

UNITED'S SUPERIOR MOVING

CLEVE 3PTS.
GLOUCESTER U. 11 PTS.

The teams took a little time to settle down, for it was their first game for two months, then the tempo quickened, with the ball being thrown about, and some very attractive Rugby was seen.

Gloucester United's three-quarters were superior in their handling, and were worthy winners. They opened the scoring, when the attack was switched from the right to the left, and A. Davis went over for an easy try, which R. Hillier converted.

Cleve fought back desperately, with their forwards gaining the honours; the United however, further increased the lead, in the second half, when P. Hawker crossed for a try.

Cleve reduced the lead when Wynne Jones, the former Bristol and Gloucestershire player kicked a penalty goal.

Near the end, John Lowe put the result beyond doubt when he added a further try for the United.

JC