

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1963

UNINSPIRING DISPLAY BY GLO'STER

EASY WIN; BUT SURPRISING WEAK LINK

GLOUCESTER 16PTS., GUY'S HOSPITAL 3PTS.

I had privately decided that Gloucester would win this match by a century to three, although I did not venture to record this opinion on any of the 6d. "Guessers" I contribute to.

That they did not was due to all-round lacklustre inspired – if that's the word – by the relative weakness of the Hospital side. Rarely have I seen the Cherry and Whites play more like Mr. Green's "Old Rotts."

They will continually have to pull out some more lively ideas next Saturday if the long-awaited blood match with Newport is to live up to expectations.

I was abroad when I read of their glorious win over Newport last October, and spent a small fortune buying all the English Sunday papers before I could be convinced of the victory.

If Gloucester pulls off the Newport double on Saturday it will be incredulous.

Anyway let's get back to last Saturday, reluctantly!

It was not until Mike Wetson, who only on Saturday learned of his elevation to England Reserve hooker, broke his leg that Gloucester asserted their superiority.

After that Tony Osman, Dave Owen and Peter Ford crossed for a flurry of tries of which one was converted by Russell Hillier.

Gloucester led by 11 points to nil at the interval and only Jeremy Taylor, playing an intelligent and expert game at centre, crossed for Gloucester in the second half. Hillier converted. The sole contribution for Guy's was from their skipper D. Lloyd-Edwards, who scored an unconverted try.

SPEEDY DEBUT

Throughout, with a few exceptions, the standard of Gloucester play was careless in the extreme.

And I hate to have to say this(!), but the fault lay, to a certain extent, with skipper Mickie Booth, at scrum-half, who lacked his usual cheek and speed, and so limited his new fly-half, J. Dixon.

With a more accurate service, the West Hartlepool outside-half could have shown us, I believe, some splendid form. His running was impressively speedy.

The fault with Gloucester's performance stemmed from this weak link between the lusty pack and the wasted threes.