

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1963

ANOTHER WELSH WIN FOR GLOUCESTER ?

GLOUCESTER 22PTS., CHELTENHAM 8PTS.

When Gloucester take the field against Pontypool at Kingsholm tonight, they will have two important factors to lend them strength of purpose: they are in a winning run; and their form against Welsh teams has improved out of all recognition this season.

Since the beginning of March – that is in twelve matches – the Cherry and Whites have conceded only two games; against Northampton and Harlequins.

Furthermore, the club's record against Welsh sides reads encouragingly. Cardiff have been beaten and Newport vanquished twice. Gloucester's first game against Pontypool, away, gave the home side a mere one point.

But to Saturday's match; the reason for my delay in getting down to writing about it really is because the first threequarters of the game can be written off so far as entertainment is concerned.

It was, in fact, run of the mill local Derby stuff, with neither side showing too much enterprise.

FOOT RUSH

Wing forward Garry White opened Gloucester's account after winger Bob Timms had opened up the opportunity for him with a footrush.

White scored again in the second half – he opened and closed the scoring – and showed the anxiety to take part in all aspects of the game which marks the play of such greats as Peter Robbins and David Gilbert-Smith.

He is indeed a very worthy deputy to Dick Smith, who is at the moment nursing a bruised ankle.

Cheltenham's busy scrum-half, Mike Davies equalised and their full-back, John Crouch, put the visitors ahead.

LOCK FORWARD

But just before the end of the first spell, Dave Owen – playing very well indeed at lock forward – took the ball from the back of a set scrum (meanwhile Mickie Booth, the home skipper and scrum-half, was simulating a dive pass) and put Gloucester ahead with a try.

Peter Ford was on hand – how often he is around to support fly-half Terry Hopson – after the Gloucester out-half had put in one of his brilliant, jinking runs in which pace is so subtly varied, and gave Bob Timms the pass which put him over on the wing after 13 minutes.

Timms was going at a cracking pace and deserves an accolade for the keen anticipation which told him to get into top gear for a run.

Cheltenham's dangerous second row man Gary Truss then intercepted a Ford clearance kick and raced over to bring the scores to 9pts. to 8pts.

FIGHTING FORM

By this time, of course, the somewhat blasé Gloucester side had showed itself in something like fighting form. Form typified by the fiery performance of Alan Brinn, that pillar of oak in the second row, who crashed through a close line-out to score the next try.

Ford converted this one and another which came from a Hopson pass to centre John Bayliss who scraped over under a heavy Cheltenham tackler.

White added his second try and the game finished on the appropriate crescendo.

JC