

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1963

DULL START – BUT GLOUCESTER DESERVED TO DRAW AT NEATH

NEATH 6Pts., GLOUCESTER NIL

This was an undistinguished start to the season for both teams, a dull match in which everyone suffered because of the rain.

The spectators suffered because visibility was poor and the players because handling was impossible.

Despite this the two teams gamely attempted to show the ball to the spectators.

Gloucester really did not deserve to be three points down at half-time. The drop-goal by fly-half Keith Evans was well against the run of play.

Neath full-back Gethyn collected a sketchy Gloucester clearance kick and drop-kicked it diagonally towards the cross-bar.

In defence Bob Smith, the Gloucester wing threequarter, suffered as so many other players on either side did, when it slithered through his fingers,

Referee Mr. G. Treharne deemed it a knock on and from the scrum Evans picked a gap to score some points.

Against the run of play this most certainly was. For the Gloucester eight spent more time in the Neath 25 than the home team did in the Gloucester half during the pre-interval spell.

In the Cherry and White's pack Halls, the hooker justified his selection and Ford, Brinn, Hudson and Townsend put in much energetic work, and Dick Smith at wing forward was outstanding.

Keeping Gloucester on the attack both Booth and Hopson were intelligent kickers for touch, as was skipper Alan Holder, a safe and sure man in the rear.

Despite the decision to rule that wing forwards should stay down, there was not much chance that this would alter the style of back play.

It was impossible to assess, therefore, the value of the experiment, although the backs certainly tried to open it up.

Prop forward Ron Waldron scored a try which seemed inevitable. The Gloucester line took a series of heavy attacks in the second half as the Welsh forwards showed greater speed and penetration.

A draw would have been a fairer result, however.

#### CONVINCING WIN FOR GLOUCESTER UNITED

Gloucester United ..... 16pts.  
Hereford ..... 8pts.

Gloucester United skipper Peter Hawker should be feeling decidedly confident of the prospects for the coming season after this convincing win over the strong and tactical Hereford XV at Kingsholm on Saturday.

For this was a game in which the Rugby was fast, open, and consequently very often thrilling – as good a game as anyone could hope for at the very beginning of the season.

Behind the lighter of the two packs, United's scrum-half Garry Mace was a demon of both defence and attack although after he had notched the first try of the game with a lightning dash around the scrum his service to fly-half Eric Stephens did become a little erratic.

## "EXILES" SHINE

Largely responsible for the United success were the First XV "exiles" especially wing forward Garry White who added two tries to the tally, while of the newcomers to the side Mike Tocknell at full back, who kicked two successful conversions, was probably the most outstanding.

United's other try came from Phil Lane, while Neil Powell (try) and Mike Maybury (penalty and conversion) provided Hereford with their eight points.

JC