

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1963

NOT EVEN MORRIS COULD KEEP GLOUCESTER AT BAY

GLOUCESTER 22PTS., LYDNEY 6 PTS.

Despite untiring and enterprising efforts by Lydney's excellent scrum-half, Johnny Morris, from beginning to end of this match, the visiting side were never playing together enough to challenge Gloucester.

Morris played as if he was stopping up gaps in a leaky dam. One moment he was tackling in defence, the next opening up individual moves.

His problem was that few of his own players were quick enough to anticipate his darting runs from the back of the set scrums.

In the set scrums, by the way, the Lydney eight really did push with more combined force and strength than Gloucester and M. James, their hooker was successful with the heels.

As the game wore on however, Dick Smith, Peter Ford and Gary White – the Gloucester back row – concentrated more and more on Lydney skipper Morris so that finally even he was more or less powerless against Gloucester.

MERCILESS MACHINE

All this is not to imply that Gloucester were a merciless machine, They only conceded two penalty goals – full back Brian Kerr was on form with his kicking boot.

But at the beginning it was touch and go when both teams exchanged attacks and came near to scoring.

If Peter Ford, the Gloucester wing forward, had not scored a try from a line-out after 15 minutes equal play, the story might have been different.

For Gloucester had thus increased their "ground" advantage – always an important factor in a local derby.

Gary White – a terrific bundle of energy and seeming to be quite at home at lock rather than wing forward – kicked the goal points.

He missed the next kick after Bob Smith on the wing had scored another try but was successful again when Ford scored yet another from a line-out near the Lydney line.

The teams swapped directions with Gloucester a comfortable 13 points in the lead. Comfortable ?

The home team was content to stage the odd attack and certainly did not bother to rattle up the cricket score that was then due.

FAIR INDICATION

It is always a fair indication that play is very much in a team's favour when a winger can be as successful as Bob Smith. He added two more tries after the interval.

The second try was due to intelligent work by the Gloucester scrum-half, Mickie Booth, who received a clean heel from Mike Nicholls and, drawing the Lydney defence about 15 yards from the line, sent a long overhead pass to Smith who had time to round and centre the try.

Ford added another – given to him by Dick Smith – to complete the rout.

On the Lydney side Reynolds on the wing was a strong runner and wing forwards Haddock and George both showed great enterprise in the loose.

SHOWED COHESION

But finally it was only in the set scrums that Lydney showed any real cohesion forward.

Alan Brinn and Brian Hudson were masters of the line-out for Gloucester. But nobody – repeat nobody – tried as hard as Johnny Morris to change the course of the match.

JC