

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1963

FINE RUGBY AS GLO'STER GRABBED WIN BY LATE RALLY

GLOUCESTER 13PTS., MOSELEY 6PTS.

Gloucester won this game against Moseley in the last, vital, thrilling 10 minutes, when both sides were required to hit the very top of their form, and it turned out that the Cherry and Whites just had the edge over their Midland rivals.

Just the edge . . . ? I think so – but don't be misled into thinking that by saying this I am attempting to take away any of the credit which is so obviously due to Gloucester.

ALL OUT

Far from it, for in my opinion both sides produced some fine Rugby and in those last ten minutes it was Gloucester who went all out for their two tries and got the win they fairly and squarely deserved.

But even so, in summing up this game it is as well to remember that the match lasted a full 80 minutes – and everything that went before should not be discounted for what happened in that winning ten minute spell at the end.

Indeed, Gloucester might well have considered themselves lucky to have been on equal terms at half-time, for it was only a mistake by Moseley which allowed lock-forward Gary White to take three points from a penalty just after the Midland club had opened the scoring with a try by their wing three-quarter Frank Byrne.

BUSY BOOTH

But that, I hasten to add, was the first half. In the second half Gloucester had their scrum-half, Mickie Booth, to thank for their opportunities – not the Moseley mistakes.

It was Booth who kept Gloucester anchored in the Moseley half during those last ten minutes with his accurate punts to touch; it was Booth who slipped a blind-side pass to Bob Smith who was unfortunately halted by a good Moseley tackle; and it was Booth who had earlier tried a smuggling tactic with fly-half Terry Hopson.

But, as it so often happens, it was not Mickie Booth who scored one of the two winning tries – yet it was Booth who sent out a cannon-like pass from a five-yard scrum to fly-half Terry Hopson who made good ground before passing on out to centre John Bayliss who dived over to touch down.

Gary White converted to give Gloucester a five point lead and almost immediately Moseley's Don Abbey replied with a push over try, but it had nothing like the class or style of Bayliss's fine effort only a minute or so earlier.

Full back Hickin missed the Moseley conversion kick, and as soon as Gloucester were back in the opposing half wing three-quarter Bob Smith finally clinched the issue with a try after he had latched on to a bouncing ball which, surprising though it may seem, came from a Moseley back's boot.

Again Gary White converted to give Gloucester an overall 13pts.–6 win.

Frankly, I think Gloucester must be just a little flattered at the score line, but at the same time Moseley were completely at a loss to pull anything out of the bag which could match those final ten minutes in which Gloucester played truly superb match-winning Rugby.

PLACE-KICKING LET UNITED DOWN

MOSELEY UNITED 9PTS.
GLOUCESTER UTD. 3PTS.

The game started nearly an hour and a half late after the Gloucester coach had been delayed by a traffic jam on the Tewkesbury–Gloucester road. Gloucester, a man short, had to borrow a Moseley player.

Nevertheless the game was worth waiting for – both sides played good open Rugby, and supplied plenty of action.

While Moseley's backs saw more of the ball, particularly early on and towards the end, and had more scoring opportunities, Gloucester might have won had their place kicking been better.

As it was Tocknell missed three kickable penalties and Stephens one.

Moseley went ahead when D. Curry went over in the corner for an unconverted try after a move involving all the three-quarters. E. Stephens equalled the scores with a penalty goal that went over off an upright.

Then Sullivan restored the Moseley lead after the interval with a try, and with the home side's blood up they battered the visiting line for the last 20 minutes and G. Acton scored his side's third try near the end.