

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1963

FINE DISPLAY EARNS GLOUCESTER THEIR SEVENTH WIN

PLAYED 9, WON 7, LOST 2, FOR 121, AGAINST 44

PONTYPOOL 6PTS., GLOUCESTER 10PTS.

Not even the much-criticised yet so often effective match-winning tactics of Welsh international Clive Rowlands could prevent Gloucester from claiming this narrow, but deserved, victory at Pontypool last night – their seventh this season.

When Pontypool lost their lead early in the second half scrum-half Rowlands adopted the touch kicking policy which brought him so much criticism when he captained Wales last season.

Whether the ball came from scrum or line-out made little difference; as soon as it was in Rowland's hands he booted it into touch.

Often almost the entire Pontypool XV was well inside the Gloucester half and often he had the man inside him; but just the same he kicked the ball into touch.

Rowland's 40-yard and deadly accurate touch kick brought cheer after cheer from the loyal Pontypool crowd, but in actual fact by his continual kicking he was playing right into Gloucester's hands.

TOOK COMMAND

For, providing the ball was thrown in straight and wing-forward Dick Smith was not wilfully obstructed, Gloucester took command in the line-outs and the forwards got the ball cleanly back to scrum-half Mickie Booth who if in danger, kicked back upfield to touch or otherwise sent the ball out to the three-quarters.

And when it did pass on out – what a dazzling performance the threequarters put up.

Centre Jeremy Taylor who, to my mind, has never been rated as an above-average tackler, was going in low and hard and he and his partner, Ron Pitt, were virtually crippling Pontypool threequarters and forwards alike.

AINGE – A SUCCESS

Outside Pitt and Taylor were wingers Tony Osman and Peter Meadows who rocketed off the mark and often made yards down the flank before they were finally halted.

Linking the wing with scrum-half Booth was fly-half David Ainge, the 19-year-old former Old Centralians and Cheltenham player who was making his first appearance for the Gloucester first XV and showed a fair amount of class and ability.

He was never caught in a moment of hesitation, not knowing whether to try a simple pass or go for a break-through on his own, and his cross-kicking was well judged and decisive.

The Gloucester forwards who kept the three-quarters supplied were up against a ferocious second row with Maurice Panter and Malcolm Powell, clearly the most outstanding Pontypool forwards, but in the front row Gloucester hooker Mike Nicholls managed to keep his end up against Pontypool's Roy Taylor, though he was unable to get many against the head.

SYMPATHY

For Gloucester wing forwards, Peter Ford and Dick Smith, and lock forward Gary White I felt a degree of sympathy, for no matter how soon they broke the scrum or how quickly they travelled they could not get hold of scrum-half Rowlands before he got his boot to the ball, and from the set scrums he often sent Gloucester as much as 40 yards back.

But always on hand to catch the occasional ball which did not make the touchline, (more often from Pontypool full-back Prosser than scrum-half Rowlands) was skipper full-back Alan Holder whose fielding and touch-kicking equalled anything produced by Prosser.

The first try of the game came after only four minutes, when Pontypool's wing three-quarter Fenton Coles touched down after Mickie Booth had tried, unsuccessfully, to drop on a ball which had come from outside-half Benny Jones.

Full-back Parsons just failed with the conversion kick and Pontypool held their three-point lead until Gloucester were awarded a penalty try.

Just inside the Pontypool 25 Jeremy Taylor passed to his co-centre Ron Pitt, who was going over for a certain try until wing three-quarter Russell Parish lost his head and tripped him up no more than a yard from the line.

PENALTY TRY

It was a blatant misdemeanour which Parish tried desperately to disguise, but referee Mr. Griffin immediately awarded a penalty try and lock-forward Gary White added the extra points with a conversion kick taken directly in front of the posts.

Shortly before half-time Pontypool regained the lead when full-back John Parsons kicked a 35-yard penalty, but early in the second half Gloucester scored their second try.

Fly-half David Ainge saw the chance for a splendid break just inside the Pontypool half and dashed through to pass to wing three-quarter Tony Osman who touched down in the corner.

Lock forward Gary White converted his try with a magnificent kick right from the touch line, which went in off the post.

THE TEAMS

Pontypool: J. Parsons; F. Coles, G. Britton, M. Cooper, B. Morris; B. Jones, C. Rowlands; J. Woods, R. Taylor, M. Powell, C. Barnard, M. Panter, E. Jones, J. Harris, N. Williams.

Gloucester: A. Holder (capt.); A. Osman, R. Pitt, J. Taylor, P. Meadows; D. Ainge, M. Booth; A. Townsend, M. Nicholls, J. Fowke, B. Hudson, A. Brinn, R. Smith, G. White, P. Ford.

Referee: Mr. L. Griffin (Abertillery).

GARY WHITE'S 55 POINTS

Gloucester lock-forward Gary White added four points to his personal-points-tally with two splendid conversion kicks in last night's game.

His total, for the nine games which Gloucester have played this season, stands at 55.

He has scored three tries, kicked six penalties, and 14 conversions.