

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1963

GLO'STER SO NEAR TO AVOIDING 9-6 DEFEAT

HARLEQUINS 9PTS., GLOUCESTER 6PTS.

Gloucester were caught on the wrong foot at Twickenham on Saturday, and did not hit top form until four minutes from the end when they scored six quick points. But the Cherry and Whites had left it too late, for when the final whistle sounded they were still three points behind, and had to concede only their third defeat of the season to the Harlequins.

It is true, that had lock-forward Gary White and full-back Alan Holder had their boots laced with a little more luck, they would certainly have drawn, but despite this I feel the narrow three-point defeat a fair reflection on the afternoon's play.

For Harlequins had Gloucester knuckling under in the first half and retained their command right up to the last 15 minutes.

But it was then, in that last quarter of an hour, that Gloucester really came into their own. Every facet of their play improved with each step they took, and they turned out a tremendous four-minute rally which left them just three points short of equalising.

## KEPT ON THE RUN

Gloucester were, for the first half, kept on the run by the 'Quins forwards who were double-quick to take up the loose ball and second row men Payne and Adcock proved exceptionally difficult to stop once they had got on the move.

And it was probably in these instances that Harlequins did so well and Gloucester did so badly.

The Cherry and Whites seemed completely unable to stifle the 'Quins forward movements as soon as they began, and as a result of the loose rushes Gloucester were often forced back 30 yards at a time.

And the head-down-and-force-your-way-through tactics were not confined to the forwards either, for 'Quins full-back Hiller was another of the barge-through experts.

### FOUND GAP

When fly-half Terry Hopson gave the centres a chance with a cross kick, Hiller took the ball and simply prised open a gap to get almost to the half-way line before he was stopped.

Harlequins crossed over with a three-point advantage; no doubt it would have been more had their backs not handled so badly, and then went on to add a penalty by wing forward Todman and a try by wing three-quarter Cox to give them a clear nine-point lead.

Then, in the last quarter of an hour, Gloucester began to see more of the ball, and with wing-forwards Peter Ford and Dick Smith making outstanding rushes in the loose they staged an onslaught which left Harlequins really panicking.

Wing three-quarter Tony Osman cut through to touch down only four minutes from time for Gloucester's first try, and then lock forward Gary White kicked a penalty but the Cherry and Whites just did not have the time left to bring the scores level.

### LAST MINUTE PENALTY

They were unfortunate when a dropped goal attempt by full-back Alan Holder eluded them of three points as the ball, kicked from a yard inside the touch-line, struck the joint of the bar and the upright, and again unfortunate when centre Ron Pitt was going for a certain try but was brought down just yards short.

And, finally, they were really unlucky in the fact that lock-forward Gary White, the side's ace goal kicker, had an off day and missed two penalties and a conversion before he struck lucky with a penalty in the last minute.

### GOOD TO WATCH

GLOUCESTER UTD. .... 6PTS.  
ABERCARN ..... 8PTS.

If Gloucester United had converted their tries on Saturday, they would have won. Glib as this sounds, it is nevertheless true. Two excellent tries by United (both unconverted) were not enough to keep the Welshmen at bay.

A first half goal all but eliminated United's early – and precarious – six points lead, which disappeared altogether in the second half when Frank Clements added a try for the visitors.

The pity of it was that United had played some exceedingly attractive Rugby, having dominated the first half with a display of fast open handling which had delighted everyone.

The turning point of the game probably came just before the interval, when a storming, retaliatory try by James was converted by Lewis. Abercarn did not look back after this, and – in effect – took control of the game.

It was a good match to watch, though; which in the end, is what really matters.

Bayliss and Wright scored tries for United.