

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1963

GLO'STER DIDN'T DESERVE TO BE BEATEN

GLOUCESTER 13PTS., COVENTRY 15PTS.

Gary Mace, the young scrum-half who a month ago said that he was contemplating a return to local Rugby, set Gloucester off to a flying start at Kingsholm with a superb try in the first two minutes, but the last quarter of an hour saw Coventry's scrum-half George ('The Boot') Cole snatch the Cherry and White's unbeaten home record with a dropped goal and two penalties.

It was a game which Gloucester really did deserve to win, and that well-worn phrase "the best team lost" has never rung as true as it did on Saturday, but nevertheless one must admire the way Coventry used the last 15 minutes to their advantage.

CLEVER TACTICS

The Midland XV were 13points–6 down and with only a quarter of an hour to go they realised that the only way they would taste victory would be through penalty kicks. And so they simply played for the penalties, got them, and won.

It was nothing short of clever tactics plus good goal kicking on the part of scrum-half Cole, but however much the Kingsholm supporters begrudge Coventry their win there must be no criticism against referee Mr. R. T. Jackson for awarding the penalties which lost Gloucester the game.

For, after playing a stunning 65 minutes Rugby which mid-way through the second half left Coventry wondering just what had happened, Gloucester finished up by tossing caution to the wind.

How many times have the Gloucester threes been caught offside already this season? One would have thought that by now they would have learned their lesson – and I'm tempted to add that if they haven't, after this match, they never will.

But even if Gloucester did try to get away with a bit too much (and remember that their cunning wing-forward Peter Ford was not there to show them how) they do deserve a tremendous amount of praise for the performance which they put up when their only advantage was that they were playing at home.

Indeed, for any side fielding eight reserves to come so near to beating such a formidable full-strength Coventry XV, and then only to lose by a mere two points is a real achievement.

COLE: 12 POINTS

Gloucester's tries were scored by scrum-half Gary Mace and centre Ron Pitt. Fly-half David Ainge and centre Jeremy Taylor converted one each, and David Ainge also kicked a penalty.

Coventry's points came through a try by wing three-quarter Flanagan, and three penalties and a dropped goal (taken when the ball had bounced back in from his penalty attempt) by scrum-half George Cole.

WEAK UNITED CRUSHED

COVENTRY EXTRA 1ST	42PTS.
GLOUCESTER UNITED.	9PTS.

The interference of county championship Rugby football with club matches was thrown into relief at Coventry on Saturday when Gloucester United, fielding nine reserves suffered a demoralising 42 points to 9 points defeat at the hands of a strong, purposeful Coventry Extra 1st. XV.

In retrospect, the scoresheet was remarkable in that hooker N. Halls, aided by experienced props, won a major share of possession from the set scrums.

However, the United half-back pairing of Baker and Stephens did not enjoy a happy afternoon due to the continual harassing of the Coventry back row.

Gloucester's wing-forwards, skipper Hawker and open-side Sysum made great efforts to stem the tide but with Herbert and McDougal unable to obtain possession from the lineout theirs was mainly a defensive role.

M. Ashwin followed a first half blindside try with a piercing run and try in the corner, just before no-side and G. Wright touched down after a cross-kick by Stephens early in the second half.

Coventry's tries were scored by Kilpatrick, Morecombe (3), Melville (2), Dove, Prosser and Parrish, Dove converting two and Broderick four. Stone completed the scoring with a drop-goal.