

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1963

ONCE AGAIN GLO'STER PACK LAID FOUNDATION FOR FINE WIN

LEICESTER 3PTS., GLOUCESTER 9PTS.

A good away win – by anyone's standards. And again it was the pack which laid the foundations with the usual show of strength, fire and mobility.

Leicester hardly penetrated into Gloucester territory in the first half. But when they did, they looked dangerous. Their backs were fleetier and more subtle than Gloucester's. And on one of the few occasions Leicester did break into the Cherry and Whites "25" the Tigers scored a try.

But rain and a customarily damp pitch tended to make manual and pedal dexterity a rarity and one felt more at ease when the ball was being dribbled or touch-kicked.

Leicester's only score came, uncharacteristically for this match, from a superb run, a swerve and a subtle variation of pace by winger Bird. This was a copybook try. Bird seemed to be doing an incredibly fast tight-rope along the Gloucester left flank.

VERY FAST

Both Bussey and Wade – of the Leicester backs – also looked capable of better things than they were producing. But Gloucester's spoiling pack were very fast indeed to smother all possibility of open play.

Peter Ford set up Gloucester's first try. He dribbled and then kicked it on, over the Leicester line and winger Bob Smith was there to get a hand to it by the corner flag. White's conversion attempt from a wide angle was not successful.

Thus, at half-time, perhaps undeservedly Leicester were at level pegging.

The Tigers looked as if they had made up their minds to continue the battering they had started at the end of the first half.

Indeed for a time they seemed to have got the measure of the Gloucester out-half, David Ainge, who went through a bad patch – I believe – following an injury. However, if his play was a little less enterprising after this than it had been in the first half, it did not take Ainge long to rediscover his confidence.

His continual cross kicks were safe – and reminiscent of his skipper, Alan Holder's technique – but unambitious.

Ainge is, though, a very promising prospect for the future. With greater experience he will be outstanding.

Soon, however, Gloucester were back in form. One or two bits of slow thinking and the evidence of disorganisation forward were soon forgotten as the Cherry and White eight got back into the "old routine."

Once again it was Gary White who produced the points. He scored a couple of good tries – one from a beautifully timed pass by back-row colleague, Dick Smith – to bring his season's personal tally to 64 points this season.

SMITH'S TENTH TRY

Bob Smith's try was his TENTH this season. Only Cook of Richmond and Jackson of Coventry (both with twelve) and Ranson of Rosslyn Park (with eleven) are higher in the first class table.

I am more than delighted to see the outstanding Gloucester pack winning games for Gloucester. But I often wonder if we will ever see a game in which the Cherry and Whites' three-quarters dictate terms.

CONVINCING WIN FOR SLICK UNITED

GLOUCESTER U. 16 Pts.
CLEVE 8Pts.

Gloucester United took most of the first half of this game at Kingsholm to settle down, but once they had found their feet they produced some entertaining Rugby which brought a convincing victory over Cleve.

The early unsettled play was, no doubt, due to the re-shuffle which brought centre Jeremy Taylor into the fly-half position to fill the gap left by regular fly-half David Ainge who was with the first XV at Leicester.

But some excellent play by that talented scrum-half Gary Mace and wing three-quarters Terry Roberts and Tony Osman smoothed out the kinks in the backs, although it was obvious throughout the game that Jeremy Taylor was a stand-in fly-half.

The United forwards fought well for the ball, with skipper Peter Hawker playing a sterling game and second-row forward Roy Long, hooker Nigel Halls, and lock forward Tony Davies putting up a good performance.

OSMAN – BEST TRY

Cleve opened the scoring with a try by wing three-quarter Ivor Searle but wing-forward Peter Hawker levelled the score for United before half-time.

In the second half lock-forward Tony Davies and wing three-quarter Terry Roberts both touched down, and then Tony Osman darted from way behind the half-way line to the Cleve line and then swung round to put the ball down behind the posts for the best try of the afternoon.

Jeremy Taylor converted United's last two tries, and Duncan Carter scored a late try for Cleve which was converted by McFarland.