

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1963

FORD'S GREAT TRY TURNED THE TIDE

GLOUCESTER 14PTS., ABERAVON 9PTS.

Gloucester very nearly let this game against Aberavon slip through their fingers, and had it not been for an opportunist's try by wing forward Peter Ford, which came at just the right time, they might well have had to accept defeat instead of celebrate victory.

It was at the most crucial stage of the entire match, mid-way through the second half, with Gloucester losing 9pts.-6, that Ford saw his chance for the try which would put the Cherry and Whites back on the road to victory.

From a set scrum a few yards from the Aberavon line the ball was heeled by the Welsh pack through to scrum-half Williams, who decided that a punt to touch was the better defensive measure than a pass to the three-quarters.

And it was that punt which spelt defeat for Aberavon, for scrum-half Williams had clearly reckoned without the integrity and presence of mind of Peter Ford.

In a flash the cunning wing-forward had broken from the side of the scrum, had half-rounded the Welsh pack and was fearlessly charging down the scrum-half's kick.

SPLIT SECOND

A split-second after the ball had left Williams' boot it was gathered in Ford's firm grasp and with a powerful lunge he hurled himself over the line for the equalising try.

It was a superbly executed line display in the art of Rugby football which, as far as I am concerned, was the 'moment of the match,' and when lock-forward Gary White winged over the conversion Gloucester were once again in the lead.

Aberavon had been given something of a shock in the first two minutes when Gloucester's wing threequarter Bob Smith opened the scoring, and a little later the Cherry and Whites were given a clear six-point lead when Gary White was on target with a penalty.

Then full-back Roy Clark brought Aberavon back into the game with a penalty, and I am certain that if the Welsh threequarters had shown a little more class and determination they would have at least equalised, and maybe gone ahead, before half-time.

Splendid work in the loose by prop forwards Alan Brinn (who, incidentally, has not yet really found his niche in the front row) and Alan Townsend, and second row men Dave Owen and Brian Hudson kept the Aberavon forwards at bay, but there were a few gaps in the Gloucester back division.

And it was through one of these gaps that the Aberavon threes surged for fly-half Cyril Jones to drop a precision-like goal which put them on equal terms, and then shortly afterwards came full-back Clark's second penalty which gave them the lead.

But Peter Ford's magnificent try and the conversion by Gary White gave Gloucester the lead again, and finally wing-threequarter Bob Smith scored his second try when he chased over a loose ball to give Gloucester a clear five point victory.

It was a richly deserved victory too, although the game was in the balance for quite a time – in the balance, in fact, until Peter Ford sprung into action with that equalising try.

And, quite frankly, I hate to think what might have happened had he not touched down when he did.

BOB SMITH TAKES HIS TALLY TO 13

Wing three-quarter Bob Smith opened the scoring at Kingsholm with a try in the first two minutes and clinched the issue for Gloucester with another shortly before the final whistle.

This brings his 'personal-try-tally' so far this season to 13 – or a total of 39 points.

Unlucky 13? At the present rate at which he's touching down he isn't even going to have time to muster any superstitions.

UNITED OUT OF LUCK AT ABERCARN

ABERCARN 8PTS.
GLOUCESTER UNITED NIL

Gloucester United, paying a return visit to Abercarn on Saturday, lost to the home side after a hard fought game by a goal and a try to nil.

The first half saw Abercarn in command, but they failed to make the most of their chances. Their kicking for goal was inaccurate and with good movements being spoiled by poor finishing, half-time brought a blank score-sheet.

In the second half Gloucester were much more lively and although Abercarn crossed the line twice, Gloucester came very near to scoring several times.

Their backs were quicker off the mark in this half, and the forwards were having more of the ball from the tight.

Gloucester full-back, M. Tocknell, played a sparkling game, and his kicking was immaculate.

The forwards played well, but the Abercarn pack were too strong for them.

A good game to watch with plenty of movement on both sides, with luck just weighing the balance for Abercarn.

JC