

# THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1963

GLO'STER THREES SHINE IN WORTHY DRAW AT CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY 8PTS., GLOUCESTER 8PTS.

"The finest threequarter line we have seen up here this season," commented a Cambridge supporter after a thrilling game in which Gloucester came so very near defeating the University.

And anyone who watched this match and saw the tremendous performance which the Gloucester three-quarters turned out will readily believe him.

For my own part, I have never seen the Gloucester backs play quite so brilliantly as they did yesterday.

Their handling was first class, their tackling sound, they sprinted with determination, and were equally as good in defence as in attack.

## TREMENDOUS RUNS

Both wing threequarters, Peter Meadows and Tony Osman, made tremendous dashes to finish off near-perfect three-quarter movements in which centres Ron Pitt and John Bayliss handled with precision and made their opposite number look distinctly slow off the mark.

In addition half backs Mickie Booth and Terry Hopson can rarely have linked together so well as they did yesterday, and on this form I feel confident that they can forget any anxieties over their future county selection.

Booth's service from the base of the scrum was immaculate, and Hopson displayed all his natural talent in handling, kicking and positioning.

Time and again he set the threequarters off on a dazzling crossfield surge which was a delight to watch, with fullback Alan Holder stepping up to make the extra man. Yet the excellent play by the threequarters was not, I am afraid, matched by the Gloucester forwards.

The pack seemed just a shade sluggish, with the possible exception of the wing-forwards, and I feel that it was because of this the University got off to such a cracking start.

For the first ten minutes, in fact, Gloucester had some shaky moments behind their own 25.

But after wing threequarter Tony Osman had made a splendid run, only to be forced into touch near the Cambridge 25 by the University fullback, wing-forward Peter Ford took the ball from the line-out and in similar style to his try at Kingsholm last Saturday, flung himself over the line.

Gary White mis-kicked the conversion, and against the run of play Gloucester were three points ahead.

#### HOPSON TRY

But shortly after Ford's try Cambridge equalised with a 'Don Clarke' penalty by their second row forward John Harvey, and in the second half their winger, Sidney Martin, scored a try which Harvey converted.

Gloucester were never out of the game, though, and when they broke through into the Cambridge 25 with a loose rush fly-half Terry Hopson took a neat pass inside from centre John Bayliss and shot through to touch down.

Lock forward Gary White gave the ball just enough height and distance for the extra conversion points, and from then on it was Gloucester, Gloucester, Gloucester, all the way.

The University, without top class half backs Clarke and Gibson, were hanging on desperately, angering their supporters by continually kicking to touch and a shattered set of forwards appealed to referee Mr. Cotterill: "How much longer?" as the game drew to a close.

Unfortunately for Gloucester they didn't have to wait long, and the final whistle blew with the scores even . . . but with the honours definitely going to the Cherry and Whites.

Had there been just another five minutes Gloucester would undoubtedly have clinched a victory, but they can glean a fair measure of satisfaction from the fact that they certainly played the better Rugby and that it was the University who were lucky to draw.

JC