

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1963

"HANGOVER" RUGBY AS GLOUCESTER SCRAPE HOME

GLOUCESTER 9PTS., PONTYPOOL 3PTS.

For the second season running, Gloucester have scored a double over Pontypool; but yesterday's win was nothing to shout about.

The general boredom of both sides was painful to watch in the closing minutes. It was one of those matches when everyone seems too tired to do more than kick the ball aimlessly for touch.

In the 6th minute Terry Hopson, the Gloucester fly-half was sent over the Pontypool line when Mickie Booth received from a loose maul.

FINE FORM

Hopson's was a fine turn of speed and he grounded the ball near the corner flag. It was not surprising therefore that Gerry White missed the goal points from a wide angle.

White punted over a very good penalty goal 20 minutes later however, and a minute or so after that Jackson, the Pontypool full-back also scored a penalty goal.

Pontypool crossed at half-time with a deficit of three points.

TYPICAL

Winger Bob Smith was the only scorer of the second half. His try was rather typical of the mood of the play.

Two Pontypool defenders were loitering over a kick-out, and Smith shot between them, hoofing the loose ball ahead, easily winning the run for the touchdown.

Apart from some very fine line-out jumping by Roy Long (the cleanest catching and passing for many a day at Kingsholm) there was precious little to recommend the game. David Owen played well.

Gloucester's reserve hooker Mike Nicholls, who appeared in the Gloucester side and Nigel Halls who helped make up the depleted Pontypool team had a drawn game, although Halls did get a vital heel against the head when Pontypool were struggling on their own line.

David Ainge continued to demonstrate that he could be a worthy centre partner for John Bayliss who is injured.

Even the bouncing Rocky Braybrook, Pontypool's scrum-half, could not infuse life into his team's play – Dick Smith had him too well marked.

And that just about sums up the match. It was negative and dull.

THE TEAMS

Gloucester: A. Holder; R. Smith, D. Ainge, R. Pitt, I. Laurie; T. Hopson, M. Booth; A. Townsend, M. Nicholls, J. Fowke, R. Long, D. Owen, P. Ford, G. White, R. Smith.

Pontypool: H. Jackson; F. Coles, R. Watkins, M. Cooper, J. Watkins; A. Jones, R. Braybrook; M. Powell, N. Halls, T. Tomlin, M. Panter, M. Leighton, E. Jones, J. Jarrett, P. Hawker (Gloucester).