

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1963

THREES MUST TAKE BLAME FOR GLO'STER'S DEFEAT

GLOUCESTER 3PTS., CARDIFF 14PTS.

The score flatters Cardiff a little – but not all that much, for Gloucester were slow and short of constructive ideas behind the scrum at Kingsholm on Saturday.

It must have been disheartening for the Gloucester eight to see their efforts thrown away with poor passing and sketchy handling when the ball reached the three-quarter line.

For the Cherry and Whites managed to keep play well within the Welsh half for most of the second half and many of the really productive or dangerous Cardiff attacks originated well inside their own half.

LACKED SPEED

This in itself indicates that the Gloucester backs were unequal to the visitors' speed – especially when Alun Priday, the Cardiff full-back, chose, as he often did to support his three-quarters and thus leave Gloucester gasping for another man.

Priday played a superb game anticipating the direction of play well, catching with ease the most difficult kicks, and always kicking intelligently.

Unfortunately, Gloucester's defending kickers all too often gave Priday possession with kicks which were intended for touch.

LONG-RANGE DROP

Cardiff opened with a try by winger Thomas and Terry Hopson replied in the second half with a good, long-range drop-goal. Centre Horgan put Cardiff ahead again.

But the thrill of the match was reserved for Thomas. Nobody – not even the most ardent Gloucester supporter would deny that it was a great try.

Gloucester were entrenched in Cardiff territory when skipper Hayward gathered a loose one inside his own 25.

HISTORIC 'ARC'

He sent a very fast pass to Thomas, who started on his historic 'arc.' Thomas received about the middle of the field near his own 25. He headed for the left wing and kicked ahead when he saw Alan Holder was threatening him after a very long run.

Thomas was too fast for anyone on the Gloucester side and picked up again, rounding his man to complete a wonderful move and the perfect semi-circular run behind the posts.

Cliff Ashton converted easily and it only remained for Thomas's colleague on the other wing to drop a goal for Gloucester's defeat to be finally and irrevocably sealed.

UNITED WERE BEATEN IN FIRST HALF

CARDIFF ATHLETIC 21 PTS.
GLOUCESTER UNITED NIL

Gloucester United did extremely well to hold a powerful Cardiff fifteen after trailing at the interval by 16 points.

Throughout the game they were beset by injuries but they fought back strongly in the second half and had their threequarters taken on some of the openings created by Garry Mace and Mike Griffiths they might have shaken Cardiff.

Cardiff played beautiful football in the first half with the backs throwing the ball around at every opportunity.

Even full-back Drew joined in and it was from a break by him that led to Cardiff's first score an unconverted try by Brian Williams which the full-back converted[*sic*] and then just before the interval the Cardiff full-back kicked a fine penalty goal.

It was a different story in the second half but Cardiff finished strongly and got a further score – a try by Dennis McCarthy which Drew goaled to complete a fine afternoon's work.