

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 1964

HOLDER'S INJURY DASHED GLO'STER HOPES

GLOUCESTER NIL, LEICESTER 11PTS.

When skipper Alan Holder reluctantly limped up the steps of Kingsholm clubhouse at half-time with a pulled leg muscle, he took with him all hopes of Gloucester being able to contain this powerful Leicester side which included two internationals in its ranks.

For Gloucester were only three points down at half-time, and if injury had not hit full-back Holder things might well have turned out differently.

NEAR TRY

A well-judged dropped goal from either fly-half Terry Hopson or centre David Ainge early in the second half would have levelled the scores and Gloucester could possibly have held out or maybe even taken the lead. But, of course, that was not the way things went.

It was mid-way through the first half that Holder stepped up from the full-back position to take the ball soon after it had left a set scrum and he ripped through on the blind side, selling a beautiful dummy, and very nearly put forward Gary White over for a try.

Somewhere along the line, though, Holder pulled his thigh muscle . . . and a few minutes later centre David Ainge was called back to cover the full-back position while wing forward Hal Symonds dropped from the pack to fill Ainge's three-quarter line berth.

And when Holder left the field at half-time the switch around continued for the remainder of the game.

But surprisingly enough, in the second half, indeed throughout the whole game, Gloucester did have as much of the ball as Leicester.

With second row forward Alan Brinn jumping splendidly in the line-outs, and deputising hooker Nigel Halls doing excellent work in the set scrums Gloucester certainly had the opportunities, but time after time they ran straight into trouble and were caught by a really efficient Leicester threequarter line.

Centre Ron Pitt and wing threequarter Peter Meadows both did all that was possible to take Gloucester towards the equalising points, and Pitt was unlucky late in the first half to see a dropped goal attempt which really looked set for its target, charged down.

Gary Mace at scrum-half started well with a spirited run from his own 25 to the halfway line, but later on he faded out while David Ainge at full-back produced some fine touch kicks and filled Holder's position really well.

Reduced to 14 men, though, this Gloucester side just could not hold out for long enough and two late tries by Bird and Almey (one of which was converted by Martin) gave Leicester their 11pts.–victory.

UNITED FADE AWAY TO LOSE 12–NIL

BARGOED 12PTS.
GLOUCESTER UTD. NIL

In a ding-dong struggle in which Gloucester United held the advantage in the first half but faded badly in the second Bargoed fully deserved their victory.

The English club gained the ball from the line-outs thanks to some high jumping by Peter Hawker and Ivor Oakes and their speedy mid-field trio of Morris, Osman and R. Carr caused the Welsh club to defend desperately.

After the interval a complete transformation came over the game.

Full-back T. Lewis gave Bargoed the lead with a 40 yard penalty goal, then Keith Rodgers gained the touch down for an unconverted try.

Gloucester found the pace too hot up front for them and fell away badly and but for a brilliant display by their full-back Mike Tocknell they would have been in serious trouble.

JC