

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1964

## WASTED CHANCES SPELLED DEFEAT

GLOUCESTER 6PTS., ARMY 19PTS.

Gloucester showed a distinct and contrasting inability to snap up the chances in the loose in this game against the Army, and as a result they conceded their fourth consecutive defeat.

Of course at the outset it must be stated that this was by no means a full-strength Gloucester side.

In addition to County calls they had two players (skipper Alan Holder and fly-half Terry Hopson) on the injured list which meant that in all six reserves had to be called up.

But while bearing this in mind, the Cherry and Whites cannot be excused for simply not taking advantage of the opportunities which were handed to them.

In the set pieces Gloucester very nearly excelled themselves with hooker Nigel Halls and second-row men Alan Brinn and Brian Hudson slewing the ball out from the line-outs.

But, as I have commented earlier this season, it is a great pity that Gloucester tend to confine their superiority to the set pieces.

## THE LOOSE BALL

For, in the game of today, it is not often that the tries come directly from the scrums or the line-outs. It is the side with the players who can latch on to the loose ball, snap up the opportunist chances, and take advantage of the opportunities handed to them by their opponents, who come out on top.

And the latter is, in fact, just what the Army did in this game.

Take for instance their second try; centre Edwards grasped the ball near the half-way line, was away down the outside like a rocket, and at the 25 yard line he passed the ball on to fly-half Campbell who sprinted on to touch down.

It was simply the inability to make use of the chances such as these which let Gloucester down so badly.

### MACE'S INJURY

Of course the game might have taken a slightly different course if scrum-half Gary Mace had not been forced to leave Gloucester a man short after he had limped off with an ankle injury just after half-time, and also if the Cherry and Whites had been able to get just that little bit further with their initial attack which took them within a yard or two of the Army line.

Just three points behind them at this early stage would have provided them with something to fight for and hang on to, and would have given them a better start.

### LEFT STANDING

But I doubt if even this would have had any effect on the result of the game, for the Army threequarters, especially centres Edwards and Handfield Jones, left Gloucester standing. They tackled effectively and often had Meadows, Taylor, Pitt and Laurie running hesitatingly away from them with the ball.

For wing-forward Gary White, who at the beginning of the season sent over some fine penalty and conversion kicks, it was an off-day – he missed two penalties and a conversion attempt.

The Army scored two first half tries through Simpson, Campbell and Guthrie[sic], McDonald converting two, while lock forward David Owen touched down for an unconverted try for Gloucester.

In the second half Simpson scored two more tries, both of which went unconverted, while fly-half David Ainge landed a penalty for the Cherry and Whites.

#### DOBLE'S KICKING BEAT UNITED

ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE ..... 14PTS.

GLOUCESTER UNITED ..... 9PTS.

San Doble, that full-back who is even more valuable to St. Paul's College than is Don Clarke to the All Blacks, and has proved a scourge to so many of their opponents this season, produced a proverbial rabbit out of the hat again – this time at the expense of a weakened and luckless Gloucester United !

For there is little doubt that had it not been for the prodigious kicking of this Wolverhampton wonder the College would not have escaped defeat at the hands of United, who were forced to make several late changes, some positional, one of which brought County centre John Bayliss in to the outside-half berth.

And it was Bayliss, trying out his injured leg who almost wrecked the College hopes, Doble and all.

Clearly the best back on view despite an indifferent service from the scrum, he threatened danger whenever he gained possession, and one brilliant run sent him swerving past some five or six desperate defenders before he was grounded only inches from the line.

With the experienced Ken Taylor hooking, United enjoyed their share of the set pieces, while Roy Long jumped to good purpose in the lines-out and Rico Bassi and Phil Lane were often seen to advantage in the loose.

## QUICK SCORES

The College took the lead when Gordon Davies dropped a goal, only to see skipper Peter Hawker equalise for United shortly afterwards with a penalty goal.

A defensive error enabled David Brooks, the former Cheltenham centre, to score a corner try for St. Paul's. Doble made the conversion from the touch line as though it were a matter of course.

Shortly before the interval a United player made the mistake of kicking the ball ahead to Doble, standing near the half-way line. He looked swiftly at the posts – and promptly dropped a magnificent goal.

The visitors came back strongly in the second half and gained reward with tries from Tony Osman and Bob Timms, but unfortunately there was no big boot to boost the points.

Nevertheless, the game was now wide open and the issue was in doubt until the final minutes when United – apparently the lesson hadn't gone home ! – incurred a penalty.

Doble's kick, of course, went unerringly between the posts. This was a pity for United scarcely deserved to lose on a series of kicks.