

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1964

GLOUCESTER WERE NEVER IN ANY DANGER

BATH 11Pts., GLOUCESTER 19Pts.

Gloucester – Ford-less but not aimless – outplayed and outstayed Bath on Saturday. No longer bedevilled by county calls, the Cherry and Whites gave a convincing demonstration of their true, devastating capabilities.

They threw the ball about – ran with it – kicked it. They sold dummies with it; and, to the frustration of Bath supporters, scored tries with it. It was, in fact, all very gratifying – although the Bath men, perhaps, can be excused for not seeing it quite the same way !

The fast, open Rugby which prevailed in the early stages did not, alas, count for very much in the second half, when brawn began to assert itself over brain.

EXCITING

Unfair ? – perhaps. Nevertheless, most of the exciting incidents which spectators clearly relished took place during the first half.

There was that 70 yard run by winger Bob Smith, for example, which after one very neat hand-off – came to a breathless end almost on the Bath line.

And then there was that splendid try by Dave Owen, whose unstoppable dash for the Bath line sparked off a Gloucester scoring spree.

Gloucester's half-back pair, Mick Booth and Terry Hopson did much that was technically worthwhile, playing – indeed – a key part in their side's victory.

PACK PAVE WAY

The Gloucester threes, with centres John Bayliss and Ron Pitt well to the fore, did some interesting things, which if not always successful – were infinitely attention-worthy.

As usual, however, it was the pack which really decided the issue. They wore down their opponents in the second half, after the Bath men had come within five points of rubbing out Gloucester's lead.

Gary White was probably Gloucester's most prominent forward, scoring two tries and kicking two conversions. Bayliss, Owen and Timms were Gloucester's other try scorers, Heindorff and Donovan replying in kind for Bath. Heindorff in addition kicked a penalty, and made one conversion.

GLOUCESTER UNITED LEFT IT VERY LATE

GLOUCESTER UNITED 11PTS.
BATH UNITED 8PTS.

Only a late flurry of attacking moves prevented United's game against Bath United being a dismal defeat.

Gloucester could well have put in a much more convincing performance for they went ahead in the 15th minute, when a well thought out move developed from a loose maul. Dave Ainge broke away and was able to rely on the support of Hal Simmonds and Tony Osman to put Phil Lane over by the corner flag.

But this was the only apparent thinking move to produce any points, against a Bath side which was determined to keep the ball out of their half.

BOGGED DOWN

And to be fair to Gloucester, the Bath team was often content to keep the ball well bogged down in order to prevent any attacking moves from developing.

Even so Gloucester failed to back up several possible chances.

The equalising try by Venn and the conversion by Rees, which gave Bath a two point lead, gave Gloucester the incentive to produce more concerted play, and a series of set scrums gave Ian Laurie the chance to force himself over near the flag.

But Dave Ainge playing an otherwise sound game missed the kick as well as the first, and Gloucester had only a one point lead at half-time.

PRESSED HARD

Gloucester pressed hard from the whistle in the second half, and both Meadows and Hawker were unfortunate to be called back when they looked certain to score.

But Bath managed to scramble over the line in the 70th minute.

Shortly afterwards a passing move developed to give Osman the chance to cross again in the corner. Peter Hawker made no mistake with the conversion and Gloucester walked off latent winners by 11 points to 8.