

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1964

GLO'STER INSPIRED BY FORD

GLOUCESTER 14PTS., SWANSEA 14PTS.

You have only to look at the scoreline to know that this was, at the very least, an interesting game.

And when I tell you that there were drop-goals and tries on either side, that each team was true to its own ideals of Rugby football, you will know that this was an exceptionally good match to watch.

Gloucester played its usual strong forward football personified in Mickie Booth – who seemed to be enjoying a friendly rivalry with Eieron Lewis, the Swansea scrum half.

Booth's job was to use the line kick and keep the game forward. Lewis was equally sure that he had to open it up.

Lewis chose the Clive Rowlands technique of high kicks which were placed cleverly to give the backs a chance to collect and run with the ball.

REAL WEAKNESS

Occasional Gloucester covering faults were sure to reveal the home side's real weakness which is lack of speed behind the scrums.

Frequently the home defence was at full stretch as either Dewi Bebb, Peter Hamer or D. Weaver raced their way through the home rear-guard, failing at the last to desperate last minute tackles.

In the Gloucester side Peter Ford, Brian Hudson, Dick Smith, Dave Owen and Alan Townsend were outstanding forwards. This was one of Ford's fine games. If possible, he seems better than ever since he played his England matches.

WORTHY PARTNER

Both Terry Hopson and Mickie Booth had a good partnership at half-back, and Bayliss – who scored a try which, for once, had the Welsh defence strung out at full stretch – played a splendidly tough tackling game. Co-centre, Ron Pitt, was a worthy partner.

Owen scored Gloucester's first try from a great move and break by Hopson, all swerves and side-steps, before he gave Owen the pass. Booth converted and then Ford fell over for a try. He received possession from Bob Timms, who got away with a very quick line-out throw near the corner flag. These were all Gloucester's first half points.

Swansea's response to this was a thrilling try by Bebb, who intercepted a Gloucester pass in his own half and raced the whole distance alone to score a fine try which Gareth Thomas converted.

FELL AWKWARDLY

Peter Hamer scored another try – he fell awkwardly and fractured his shoulder in so doing.

Alan Holder dropped a good goal, a lead which was soon nullified by his opposite number, Parkhouse – a very compact and useful player – who socked over a penalty.

Bayliss' try was not converted so that when Parkhouse slapped over a really splendid drop-goal the game was again even and rightly so.

As I said before, this was two for the price of one; two schools of Rugby in one match – and well worth the gate money they were !

WHITE GOES ONE POINT BETTER

HEREFORD NIL
GLOUCESTER UTD. 17PTS.

This victory for United was not as easily gained as the scoreline suggests. After presenting Gloucester with a "gift" try in the first half Hereford managed to hold their own until the last eight minutes. Then, thanks mainly to lapses by the home team's backs, United added 11 points.

Gary White followed up his 10 points the previous Saturday for Gloucester's 1st XV with another 11 at Herford, from a try, two penalties and a conversion – and could have had more if he had converted other easier-looking penalty kicks with the same ease as the two he landed.

He put United ahead in the early stages with a penalty goal and followed this up with a try in the corner, when he touched down after Hereford full-back Peter Hill had dropped the ball on the line.

When it seemed as though no further score was likely, White kicked another penalty goal from near the touchline and then Phil Lane broke through to go over in the corner. White converted.

The scoring was completed when Tony Osman picked up a loose kick to touch down in the opposite corner.