

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1964

TOP FORM WHITE INSPIRED GLOUCESTER

GLOUCESTER 17PTS., NEATH 8PTS.

This was a good win for Gloucester but, more than that, it was a triumphal return to top form of Gary White, who scored 11 points with his boot and played a splendid game anyway.

It proves to me that he is most at home in the wing forward position rather than at lock, where he has played because the comparative merits of Peter Ford and Dick Smith would not permit him to oust either from his position.

Last season he was at his very best when he took over from an injured Dick Smith. He was obviously too good to leave out of any back row, so he was created No. 8. But Saturday confirmed once and for all that he is a great wing forward.

This is not to detract from Smith who marked Evans so effectively that the Neath fly-half could hardly do a thing right. Smith is, in fact, another great wing forward who seems able to collar the most adept fly-halves in the country because he is a fast mover and a quick thinker.

Time and again he (as it were) failed with the left arm but was able to succeed in catching the Welsh out-half with his right arm – on the turn.

Not a few top players in his position would think they had played their part if they had tried and failed on the first attempt, leaving the fly-half for the centres to deal with. Not so Dick Smith, who always seems to get his man.

OUTSTANDING

If I tend to dwell on these players it is because they were, in their different ways, outstanding, in an exciting match. White kicked three penalty goals and converted one try which the enterprising Alan Holder scored – after White had initiated the move.

Neath, who led Gloucester by five points in the first half – their excellent full-back Ray Clarke kicked a penalty and converted a try by wing forward, Dai Morris in the first half – faded badly in the second spell.

INSPIRING

The Gloucester pack paved the way for the home recovery under inspiring leadership by Alan Townsend.

In the Neath side D. Davies and B. Thomas had, shall we say, an "interesting" tussle with the Gloucester second row pair Roy Long and Alan Brinn. Long was jumping particularly well in the line-outs but I wonder what would have happened to certain of the "enthusiastic" Welsh forwards if 'Baggy' Hudson had been there.

In the loose Ken Taylor had a tremendous game as did the consistently fine Jackie Fowke.

Of the Neath side the most conspicuously effective was their scrum-half M. Davies, as slick a half-back to be seen at Kingsholm for many a day.

AINGE SHINES AS UNLUCKY UNITED LOSE

NEWPORT HSOB 5PTS.
GLOUCESTER UNITED 3 PTS.

Clinging mud – and, of course a Welsh referee – proved just a little too much for Gloucester United at Newport, where Newport High School Old Boys were distinctly lucky to gain the verdict.

In all but the eventual scoreline United were clearly the dominant force fore and aft, and, even in the appalling conditions, always looked the more capable of constructive Rugby.

Their pack, with newcomers Evans and Bassi, and Brian McDougall and Harold Symonds particularly prominent, generally dictated play in all departments, while David Ainge skated over the mud bewilderingly at times, and his display at outside-half sparked off many a move that would have brought undoubted success in less depressing circumstances.

In defence United were often tested but never found wanting, and Mike Tocknell scarcely put an elegant foot wrong at full-back.

Tidmarsh scored the Old Boys' try, which Holland converted, David Ainge replying with a penalty goal for United.

JC