

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1964

SURPRISED GLO'STER WERE A SHADE LUCKY TO WIN

GLOUCESTER 6PTS., EXETER NIL

Gloucester were just a little lucky to win against a hard-working and disciplined side which appeared to me to have been playing at, perhaps, a generally lower level so far as weekly fixtures are concerned, than Gloucester.

Exeter were the journeymen and Gloucester the surprised first division side who needed to draw on resources which they imagined could possibly be rested for this match.

As it was we saw Terry Hopson, Gloucester's fleet fly-half, burning up the turf in unusually long runs, and Dick Smith pulling off miracles of acceleration in an effort to take play into the safe area inside Exeter's half.

The visitors often pressured the Gloucester backs into faulty handling in the first half, and it was only by quick thinking – the odd overhead pass and several unexpected home passing moves which were far from conventional – that they managed to outwit a keen opposition.

Ron Pitt and John Bayliss had excellent games in the Gloucester threes and it was fitting that they should have contributed to the second try of the match.

LITTLE DIFFICULTY

The first score came from Hopson, who had little difficulty in scoring a try under the posts after he had been well served by Garry White. The move started mid-field. Peter Ford started the move with a pass to Alan Brinn, who fell heavily under a tackle, but not before he had passed to White – on the fall.

White chose the outside tack as he started his run and changed directions so that he could send in Hopson on the inside.

The Gloucester fly-half rounded the posts, yards too fast for Exeter's defenders.

SITTING POSITION

It was a sitting position for White's conversion kick but an Exeter player was able to touch the ball in flight so that although raised flags proclaimed a goal the referee had no hesitation in disallowing it.

I had forgotten just how fast Dick Smith can accelerate until I saw him set up the second try of the afternoon.

He took a pass mid-field and after a second's consideration decided to try for a break.

It was as if a gale had precipitated him; for he shot past possible tacklers before they knew what he was about and was easily able to pass to Pitt.

HARD TO STOP

The Gloucester centre had Bayliss in support and gave him his pass about 15 yards out.

Bayliss is very hard to stop when he can see a try ahead of him – or any other time – and made it over the line with two tacklers clinging like limpets.

White's kick was short. The rest of the match was patchy but Exeter must be congratulated for their stout defence and all-round ability to keep Gloucester on their toes.

UNITED UNLUCKY TO LOSE

CLEVE 6PTS.

GLOS. UNITED 3PTS.

In a fine game played under ideal conditions, Gloucester were rather unlucky to lose by two penalty goals to one try.

Cleve opened the scoring when Peter Tunstall (an ex-Gloucester player) kicked a penalty goal from in front of the posts after five minutes, following a scrum infringement.

Gloucester replied with a fine try following a powerful run by Symonds, while Wright timed his pass to Osmond perfectly to put him over in the corner.

For the visitors, McDougall and Symonds were the pick of a hard-working pack, while Wright was the outstanding threequarter on the field.

Osmond seized his chance well for his try, and Meadows (at scrum-half) served his threes admirably.

In the last line of defence, Tocknell kicked a good length and fielded well.