

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1964

GLO'STER DESERVED BIGGER WIN MARGIN

NORTHAMPTON 3Pts., GLOUCESTER 6Pts.

Gloucester should have won this game against Northampton by a clear 20 points, and had it been played at Kingsholm I have little doubt that they would have done so.

For Northampton have a distinct 'home ground advantage' in their miniature sized pitch, and one can readily appreciate how difficult it must be for a visiting side to acclimatise themselves to such a restricted ground.

And in addition to the ground aspect of this game, Gloucester also had to cope with the referee. Group Capt. G. C. Lamb (RAF Society) must have browsed through the law books towards the end of last week for he kept such a tight check on the game that his performance ranked as the most meticulous 80 minutes refereeing I have ever witnessed.

The offside infringement was his speciality and he halted the game so often that during the second half Gloucester gave the impression that they were a shade reluctant to produce any really enterprising play for fear of being 'blown up.'

Scrum followed scrum, and penalty followed penalty . . .

But nevertheless the game ended in victory for Gloucester with the Saints decidedly lucky to get off so lightly.

BETTER SIDE

The Cherry and Whites were certainly the better side, with the threequarters having as much opportunity as the forwards. In fact, the backs would have put up as good a performance as they did in that thrilling and victorious encounter with Cambridge University earlier in the season, had it not been for just a couple of brief spells of mishandling.

Gloucester spent long periods passing the ball back and to within yards of the Saints line, and in these 'free handling' spells they did everything but score.

In one of these instances the Gloucester forwards were battling away 'up front' when the Saints full-back Page cleared with a long kick intended for touch.

But Gloucester's full-back skipper Alan Holder got under the ball and caught it in his own half to slip it out to winger Bob Smith; the three-quarters were set in motion once again, and took Gloucester back to the Northampton 25.

CENTRES PROMINENT

Centres John Bayliss and Ron Pitt featured most prominently, and made some splendid breaks and tackled hard and effectively – something which was sadly lacking among the Northampton backs.

All eight Gloucester forwards turned in a sound performance with Alan Brinn working well in the line-outs and wing forward Dick Smith, and second row man Roy Long fighting well in the loose.

Immediately behind the scrum Mickie Booth put in some clever ground-gaining kicks, and it was in fact one of his chip-kicks which gave Gloucester their try.

After Booth had punted ahead the burly Ron Pitt was through, following up his kick, and the ball bounced just right for Pitt to latch on to it and stride on to touch down for Gloucester's first three points.

FINE HOPSON GOAL

Lock forward Gary White missed the conversion, but before half-time fly-half Terry Hopson had added another three points.

He dropped a splendidly judged goal, almost directly against the high wind, and the ball sailed through the very top of the uprights.

In the second half Roger Hosen – in the wing threequarter position – kicked a 40-yard penalty to cut down the Gloucester lead, but when he tried another which could have levelled the scores he sent the ball wide.

LAURIE'S TRIES MADE SURE

GLOUCESTER UTD. 9PTS.
NEWPORT HSOB NIL

Highlight of Gloucester United's match against Newport High School Old Boys at Kingsholm was the pivoted drop goal by David Ainge, which sailed over the bar to give Gloucester the lead after only five minutes.

Ainge all but pirouetted to send the ball across and this was some consolation for the conversions that were missed.

Gloucester continued to press hard and many fine moves were set up by the threequarters, but a solid Newport defence foiled many of the better attempts. Sound touch kicking by Holland for Newport often got them out of trouble.

But the continued pressure was bound to pay off in the end, and the tries by Laurie – one in the first half and one in the second – were the result of concerted efforts by the entire team.

Newport, however, were unfortunate to go away entirely empty handed.

JC