

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 1964

HEROIC CRIPPLES TAKE GLO'STER TO VICTORY

GLOUCESTER 14Pts., ROYAL AIR FORCE 5Pts.

Unbeaten for seven weeks, Gloucester notched their fourth successive win against a strong RAF side at Kingsholm on Saturday – despite the early loss of key player Mickie Booth at scrum-half.

Half a dozen players on the home side spring instantly to mind when recalling this entertaining tussle: Gary White for so ably taking over from Booth; Ron Pitt for playing a courageous game at centre, injury; John Bayliss for contri- his co-centre, also with an injured ankle[*sic*].

And one cannot exclude Peter Ford who scored two tries and converted another – although he did not join the ranks of the heroically injured.

One could have blamed neither side for closing the game up early for it must have been one of the wettest and most slippery games at Kingsholm this season.

THREW BALL ABOUT

However, both teams shared a continual inclination to throw the ball about.

Outstanding in the visiting backs were Mason and Palin, who were a continual danger to the home side at wing threequarter and fly-half respectively.

Gloucester's Bob Timms, on the wing, opened the scoring from a Hopson pass, to be closely followed by Ford.

The score remained at 6 points–nil until well into the second half when RAF wing forward Corsi intercepted a careless Gloucester pass in defence and raced over for a try.

MISSED A SITTER

The RAF skipper, Leighton Jenkins (still a prodigious player) converted, showing his opposite number, White, that it could be done even if the ball was greasy.

White could not learn, though. He missed a sitter in front of the posts after the RAF had infringed during a scrummage in their own 25.

Ford's second try put Gloucester in a safer position and typically it came from one of Ford's charge-downs.

According to the law of averages he was bound to get this one; he was, if anything, attempting more charge-downs than usual.

INSPIRED MOVES

Alan Holder inspired many a handling move at full-back, and Alan Townsend, Roy Long and Dick Smith shone in the pack.

Once again, congratulations to Pitt, who limped faster than anyone I have ever seen as he raced to save an RAF try !

UNITED LOST THEIR EARLY ADVANTAGE

SWINDON 9PTS.
GLOUCESTER UNITED ... 5PTS.

Gloucester United went down to Swindon after leading by a goal to nil at half time. Playing with the wind they had the advantage territorially in the early stages and the touch-finding of their halves kept Swindon very much on the defensive.

Osman scored for Gloucester after 20 minutes when he intercepted a Swindon pass in midfield and dribbled over for a try. Ainge had little difficulty with the conversion.

Early in the second half the United were faulted for foot up in the scrummage and Kingdon reduced the arrears with a penalty goal.

Gloucester still persisted in using the kick although their opponents by this time were largely neutralising it and were, indeed, getting more than their share of the line-outs.

Swindon took the lead when Kingdon again found goal, Gloucester having been given offside in the tight.

Final points for the home side came when they took play right up to the Gloucester line and following a 5-yards scrum three Gloucester men were given offside. Kingdon, with a position in front of the posts, had no difficulty in collecting his hat-trick.