

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 1964

SINGLE TRY GIVES GLOUCESTER DESERVED WIN

BETTER GAME TO PLAY IN THAN TO WATCH

GUY'S HOSPITAL NIL., GLOUCESTER 3PTS.

After a journey fraught with delays and difficulties, Gloucester arrived on the playing field 35 minutes late and even then took most of the second half to get themselves firmly entrenched in the Guy's Hospital half.

It was not a particularly inspiring match. The pitch was thick with mud and a heavy rain did not help matters much. The Gloucester eight were shoved well by the Hospital pack who showed determination in the set scrums.

The first half was scoreless and Gloucester did not attain their deserved score until Dave Owen was able to grasp a loose ball during a maul near the Hospital line after the interval.

Dave Owen, who took innumerable penalties during the afternoon, missed the conversion.

Territorially Gloucester looked worth a few more than three points better than Guy's but Guy's must be praised for their covering in defence which kept out so many of the Gloucester attacks,

FIERIEST GAME

In the line-outs Roy Long played one of his fieriest games this season, well backed by Alan Brinn and conspicuous in the loose mauls was the moustachioed Arthur Nield who deputised for Jack Fowke at prop forward. And Graham Wright showed he can cut through the centre.

Gloucester's fly-half, Terry Hopson, can take much of the credit for keeping the play in the Hospital half with both runs and excellent touch finding kicks. This was one of Hopson's all-round games. He linked well with Peter Meadows, deputising for the injured Mickie Booth at scrum-half.

The Gloucester three-quarters were, as usual, well supported by wing forward Dick Smith whose sudden accelerations were very effective and strengthened the attack.

But this was not really a very distinguished match to watch. But it was patently, as someone remarked afterwards, an enjoyable game to play in.

UNITED LACKED INITIATIVE

GLOUCESTER UNITED 3 PTS.
CRUMLIN 11PTS.

The kindest thing that can be said about Gloucester United on Saturday was that they were unfortunate.

It wasn't their fault that Crumlin were so good. No one can blame them for that.

It wasn't their fault, either, that there were so few people at Kingsholm to cheer them on. The blame here can safely be laid at the door of the Scotland v. England international. It can also be safely assumed that the Grand National provided a diversion of sorts.

Nevertheless, it has to be admitted that United brought about their own downfall by a general, crippling lack of all-round strategy.

Once Crumlin had seized the initiative they did not relinquish it – despite the herculean efforts of Gloucester's pack in the second half.

The United backs did not have too successful a day, either. They never looked as purposeful as their opposite numbers who – although not particularly imaginative – ran well and handled effectively.

Gloucester's sole scoring effort – a goal dropped by David Ainge – raised hopes early on but did not, however, unduly impress the Crumlin men. Maison snatched two tries – Lane having scored one earlier – one of which Lane converted.

JC