

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 1964

FINE LOOSE PACK PLAY SPEARHEADED GLO'STER'S TRIUMPH

GLOUCESTER 16Pts., HEADINGLEY 11Pts.

While it is one thing to be outplayed and outsmarted, it is quite another thing to be out-kicked.

Headingley's 11pts.–nil interval lead, for instance, was made up of one try – and a batch of eight points, kicked by their stand-off Briggs !

Clearly, something had to be done. A matter of principle – if not honour – was at stake.

To the lasting satisfaction of Gloucester supporters, the Cherry and Whites struck back in the second half with four tries – just two of which were converted.

RECOVERY

It must be presumptuous, however, to explain away Gloucester's second half recovery as an indignant outburst against the art of kicking. Deep waters, indeed !

What cannot be so easily dismissed is the argument of those Saturday afternoon critics who claim that Gloucester are a 'second half team.' On Saturday's form, certainly, there could be no fairer description.

DOMINATED

One might, indeed, have been watching two different games. In the first half, the running – in the most literal sense – was made by Headingley.

In the second half, the Gloucester forwards came into their own. They dominated the loose – and by so doing made a Gloucester recovery possible.

It was, in fact, the old, old formula – a not unpalatable one, incidentally, to thousands of Kingsholm Rugby-goers.

The impression which Headingley gave – at any rate, in the early stages – was one of speed. Their threequarters – Tolly, in particular – were exceedingly mobile, and posed a permanent threat to the home defence.

There were, indeed, some very narrow scrapes at times, and on more than one occasion the Gloucester line was only saved by a hasty, last minute fly-kick.

SUPREME

Later on, of course, the roles were reversed. Gloucester's forwards – Roy Long, to some extent, in the line-outs, and practically everyone everywhere else – reigned supreme.

Initiative, too, came from the threequarter line. Wingers Timms and Osman snatched tries in their respective corners, while the Bayliss-Pitt axis in the centre did a number of interesting things.

Gloucester's other try-scorers were White and Long. White also kicked a conversion – as indeed did his back row colleague, Ford.

Briggs converted Headingley's only try – scored by Jennings – and kicked two penalty goals.