

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1964

ONLY PACK SAVED ROUT OF GLO'STER

CARDIFF 19PTS., GLOUCESTER 6PTS.

It was thanks to the command of the depleted Gloucester pack in the second half that Cardiff did not win this uneven match by a far greater margin.

Plainly the successful Welsh side – their 22 wins in a row are helping to bring the crowds back to Arms Park – were too good for Gloucester in the conditions on Saturday.

The playing area looked like a tennis court and the slick, fast three-quarter line should therefore have had a field day.

Wing three-quarter Richie Wills scored three tries, all by the corner flag, which in itself suggests that the Cardiff attack was forced to stretch the Gloucester defence to the last man. For each of Wills' tries came after a complete – and attractive – three-quarter passing movement.

## HOPSON MISSED

In the first half Gloucester were plainly at a disadvantage behind the scrum. The fastest man in the Gloucester team, Terry Hopson at fly-half, was absent with a pulled muscle after 20 minutes and if ever his evasive abilities at speed were needed it was on this bone-hard pitch where he could have shown even the fast Welsh threes a clean pair of heels.

But after the resumption Mickie Booth at scrum-half found his feet and although Alan Holder had sent lock forward Gary White to full back and himself taken over at outside half, the Gloucester eight started to shove the Welshmen very well indeed.

## TERRITORIAL WIN

Territorially Gloucester won the second half hands down.

Many of the Welsh advances were possible only because Holder's ability to take Booth's passes was not equal to Hopson's.

But no matter. He played gallantly in the position otherwise, and that versatile Gary White played adequately at full-back too.

Apart from the splendid Gloucester front row of Alan Townsend, Nigel Halls and Jackie Fowke, the outstanding Gloucester forwards were Peter Ford and Dick Smith.

## KEPT TIGHT

But Mickie Booth's excellent kicking gave them the chance to keep it tight.

And it was a pass by the Gloucester scrum-half which sent Bob Smith over from a loose maul near the corner flag.

Gary White kicked a good penalty to complete Gloucester's tally.

## BIGGER WIN ?

Mills' excellent tries were supplemented by a penalty by Alun Priday who converted a try and Hughes scored a try which Priday converted in the second half.

With all due respect for Gloucester's forward efforts, Cardiff could have won by a good deal more than they did.

## UNITED WERE LUCKY. . . BUT AINGE WASN'T

Gloucester United ..... 9Pts.

Cardiff Athletic ..... 9Pts.

Pity the poor United outside-half David Ainge.

He was hobbling within a couple of minutes of the kick-off of this game, received treatment on the touch line all through half-time, and then when Peter Meadows touched down for the equalising try just before the final whistle Ainge was asked to take the conversion kick which could have won the match.

Having already landed a penalty a few minutes earlier, he must have been feeling reasonably confident as he placed the ball at just a slight angle to the posts.

But at the last minute it curled away, struck the upright, and bounced out for the game to end in a draw.

## TRIFLE LUCKY

And all in all, United must consider themselves a trifle lucky to have shared the honours.

They started with a disadvantage when a last minute re-shuffle forced skipper Peter Hawker to fill the wing-threequarter position, and at half time they were trailing 6pts.-3.

When Cardiff Athletic added another try just after half-time it looked like 'curtains' but a penalty by Ainge and a snap try by Peter Meadows put United on level terms.

In the first half Cardiff built up their lead with two unconverted tries by Jones and Hickey, while Peter Hawker landed a 30-yard penalty for United.