

# THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1964

DEPLETED GLOUCESTER NEVER GAVE UP

BRISTOL 12PTS., GLOUCESTER NIL

Injury-hit Gloucester found Bristol too much of a handful last night, although – to give them credit – they never recognised the fact.

After a somewhat depressing first half, the visitors managed to loosen the Bristol stranglehold, and fight back strongly after the interval. Unfortunately, the ball never bounced properly for them, and what scoring chances there may have been went astray.

Bristol were never slow, on the other hand, to take advantage of any defensive lapse, and in this manner piled up a number of unconverted tries. Gloucester, with a weakened side – neither Hopson nor Booth were able to play – were at a disadvantage from the start, and found themselves under heavy pressure for long sustained spells – particularly during the first quarter.

The home side went into the lead after only a few minutes, with a try by their left winger, Collins.

Collins ran powerfully for the Gloucester line, almost from the half-way line, and not even a desperate last-minute tackle by Bob Smith could stop him.

Gloucester's attacks were few and far between at this stage in the game and when they did occur, they were usually spasmodic, uncoordinated affairs.

Timms looked all set to do great things at one point when he found himself in possession near the Bristol 25, but was whistled back for an infringement.

## OFF COURSE

Ainge aimed hopefully at the Bristol posts in an attempt to drop a goal, but the wind took the ball well off course – as it was to do with many another kick, particularly touch-finders, during the evening.

A flash of the old Gloucester came midway through the first half, with Ford, Taylor and Meadows inter-passing splendidly in a move which carried the Cherry and Whites almost to the Bristol line.

The first half ended, however, in the same way it had begun – with a try by Collins.

Up to this point, the picture had been one of unrelieved gloom. Only an optimist could have felt in any way confident about the second half – played under floodlights.

It would be unkind, perhaps, to describe as optimistic White's post-interval attempt to kick a penalty from the half-way line.

It was, as it turned out, a sign of comparatively better things to come. Gloucester's pack, spearheaded by that formidable back row trio, Ford, White and Smith, temporarily thrust the Bristol men back into their own territory.

But although they clearly ruled the roost for limited periods, providing their backs with a fair number of chances from the scrums and lines-out, it was not ordained that Gloucester should score.

Only Bristol's backs, it seemed, were to be allowed to score in this particular match.

## RARE EXCURSIONS

Sure enough, on one of their rare early second half excursions into Gloucestershire[*sic*] territory, they made the most of a charge down by outside-half Blake and sent right centre Colston over for Bristol's third try.

Collins scored his third try of the evening shortly afterwards to set the seal on a match which he will undoubtedly remember with pleasure; a frame of mind which Gloucester are not likely to share.

JC