

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1964

GLOUCESTER FADE AND LOSE BY LATE TRIES

GLOUCESTER 6PTS., NEWBRIDGE 13PTS.

It was a pity that Gloucester were not at full strength when they met Newbridge at Kingsholm on Saturday. The Monmouthshire men are not, as they so adequately demonstrated, the sort of people who can be safely tackled without a full complement.

Even when they led by 6pts.–nil, it was apparent that Gloucester would have to fight hard to maintain that margin let alone increase it.

It must have been annoying to put mildly, for them to see their fragile, painstakingly-built lead dwindle, and then disappear, as the visitors gained the upper hand in the second half.

The pattern of play was simple enough. Gloucester dominated the first half, and Newbridge the second.

In spite of the Newbridge recovery it looked at one time as though Gloucester might just be able to save the match.

DEFENCE LAPSES

With only a few minutes to go, Gloucester's 6pts.–3 lead seemed safe enough, particularly when the Red and Whites temporarily forced play into the visitors' 25.

But it was not to be. Newbridge counter-attacked strongly, and took advantage of defensive lapses to score two tries.

They were unquestionably the stronger, faster side in the closing stages, and only did then what they had threatened to do for most of the second half.

One certainly did not envy full-back Holder's job. He often found himself under very heavy pressure indeed, a state of affairs which he tried to alter from time to time, with hard uncompromising dashes down the centre.

Like everyone else, however, he cannot be everywhere – an attribute, nonetheless, which the Newbridge men at times seemed to possess.

ONLY SCORER

Gloucester wingers, Bob Smith and Timms, did some useful things in defence, while stand-off Ainge schemed schemes which, when they were successful, proved infinitely watchable.

Ainge was, in point of fact, Gloucester's only scorer. Besides kicking a penalty, he scored a beautiful try in the corner; an effort, indeed, worthier of much better games than this.

Newbridge's three tries were scored by A. Hughes, J. Hughes, and A. Evans, two of which were converted by D. Jones.

WEAKENED UNITED WELL BEATEN

CWMBRAN 22PTS.

GLOUCESTER UNITED ... 3PTS.

Sadly weakened by injuries and first XV calls, Gloucester United went down heavily at Cwmbbran, though the home side were perhaps somewhat flattered by the margin of their victory.

United were best served up front, where the skill and class of acting skipper Brian Hudson made him one of the outstanding forwards on the field, while hooker Nigel Halls contrived to gain a working majority in the set pieces.

Pick of the back division, where the passing was generally slipshod, was young Andy Mead, who capped an excellent display at scrum-half by dropping a neat goal for United.

Roger Thompson, (3), Brian Skyme (2), and Charlie Scanlan scored Cwmbran's tries, two of which Ray Morgan converted. An apparently good try by Eric Stephens for United was disallowed.

JC