

# THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1964

GLO'STER ALWAYS HAD THE BETTER OF BATH

GLOUCESTER 14PTS., BATH NIL.

It is always unfortunate when a player has to leave the field because of injury. If he has to stay off, the consequences for his side can be disastrous.

Bath, for instance, collapsed after losing their centre, Margretts, early in the second half.

## PLEASING

They could put up only feeble resistance in the closing stages, and might well have lost by a much greater margin. That there was not a cricket score (of sorts) was due entirely to poor Gloucester marksmanship.

A pleasant feature of this game was the promising performance of stand-off Terry Byrne, of Longlevens, who stood in for David Ainge. Byrne, who had played for Streatham, handled cleanly, kicked imaginatively – though not always successfully – and did not wilt under pressure. He played very sensibly indeed.

The game began uneventfully, and purred quietly along for some little time.

## PRESSURE

Eventually, however, Gloucester's line came under pressure following a move initiated by the Bath right winger, Monahan – during which, incidentally, the ball was blissfully thrown forward on at least one occasion.

It was as well for Gloucester that the ball subsequently found its way to Bob Timms. Or was it vice versa ?

At any rate, the winger broke up what might easily have been a scoring move. Gloucester supporters breathed again.

The home side went into the lead after 30 minutes with a try in the corner by Dick Smith, several Gloucester players having contributed to his success.

In spite of this, however, the first half was, from a spectator's viewpoint, a comparatively mild affair.

#### VIGILANT

Gloucester's ever-vigilant forwards were always on the look-out for an opening, and when they found one, they usually made the most of it. The back-row trio, Ford, Owen, and Smith, were particularly active in the loose.

Reduced to 14 men in the second half, Bath could not, particularly in the closing stages, be reasonably expected to do much more than close their ranks, and defend as best they could. In this, they were singularly unsuccessful.

Alan Holder, John Bayliss and Dick Smith added second half tries for Gloucester.

It was wholly fitting that Mick Booth should convert Smith's try. It was he who made it.