

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1950

THESE UNIVERSITY MEN WERE FAST, BUT . . .

GLOUCESTER LASTED THE PACE BETTER;

WON KEEN DUEL

Fresh from their victory over Swansea, the Universities Athletic Union played such sparkling rugby during the first half of yesterday's match at Kingsholm that Gloucester seemed likely to share the fate of the Welsh club.

But, largely due to another fine performance by the forwards, Gloucester gradually gained the upper hand and finished up winners by a goal and a penalty goal (8 points) to a drop-goal and a try (6 points).

Gloucester's regular and deputy half-backs all being unavailable, the club brought in R. Franklin and Gordon Cummings as stand-off half and scrum-half respectively.

A vacancy on the wing was filled by Gordon Jones, the former United player, who has fully recovered from his serious injury and is now in the Forces.

DANGEROUS BACKS

The Universities' pack had an almost complete monopoly of the ball from the scrums and linesout in the early stages of the game.

This resulted in many good handling movements by their speedy backs, W. W. Purvis and J. W. Taylor, the Gloucestershire winger, being particularly dangerous.

Gloucester's defence stood up well to these onslaughts, but the visitors took the lead when their outside-half, Baxter-Wright, landed a nice drop goal.

CLEVER OPENING

Franklin – who played a useful game at outside-half – enabled Gloucester to reply.

He made a clever opening inside the Universities' 25 and his pass sent right-centre Michael Baker over for a try, which Halls converted.

Before the interval, however, Purvis took advantage of slow covering-up by Gloucester to whip through for an unconverted try which put the visitors ahead once more.

PACK TOOK COMMAND

In the second half the Gloucester forwards got right on top in the loose – Watkins, Hudson and Wells being among the best – and the pack also began to get a good share of the ball from the tight.

Gloucester's three-quarters had more chances after the interval, but the wing men saw practically nothing of the ball.

Baker gave Gloucester the winning points with a nicely judged penalty goal, and in the last quarter of an hour the visitors had to defend desperately.

The Universities team, containing eight county men, played the more open game, but Gloucester won because they stood the pace better.