

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1951

GLO'STER WERE FIRST ENGLISH XV. TO DEFEAT WASPS

Gloucester added another notable victory to their list of successes when they became the first English club to defeat the Wasps this season. They won by the only score of the match – a try (3 Pts.) to Nil. The only other clubs who have beaten the Londoners are Cardiff (twice), Newport and Edinburgh Academicals.

The Sudbury ground was very heavy after the recent rains, and the standard of Rugby did not rise to any great heights, but, nevertheless, Saturday's match was hard and keenly contested.

It was a game in which fortunes varied considerably. Gloucester soon got the upper hand in the first half, and went ahead after 25 minutes when Terrington took a pass from Vivian Davies, made a good opening, and sent Ibbotson over for a try near the posts.

FIGHT TO KEEP THE LEAD

Until the interval it looked as though Gloucester would probably win fairly easily, but for a long period in the second half they had to fight hard to keep their lead.

The Wasps were not quite thrustful enough to pierce the visitors' defence, however, and in the later stages Gloucester again began to dominate the play.

Much of the game was fought out between the forwards. The packs were well-matched in the loose and although the Wasps did better in the lines-out Reg Chamberlayne got Gloucester a good share of the ball from the set scrums.

Wing forwards Gordon Hudson and Dennis Ibbotson were again among the best of Gloucester's pack.

USEFUL PARTNERSHIP

Conditions were not very favourable for good back play but Gloucester's halves, Davies and Terrington struck up a useful partnership in what is so far their best game together.

The improved threequarter line, with Bill Hook in the centre, was not brilliant though it stood up to its test satisfactorily.

Trevor Halls, who took Hook's place at full-back, played a very sound game.

Taking the game as a whole Gloucester were the better side but some fierce second-half pressure by the Wasps left the result in doubt almost to the end.

UNITED SHOULD HAVE WON MORE DECISIVELY

Although play was poor when Gloucester United met Bristol Aero at Kingsholm the United gave their best performance as a team this season.

The backs combined well and started many movements and the forwards heeled in fine fashion. With a good service from scrum-half D. Humphris, [they] should have produced a high score – but that is where the good work ended.

Bad passing or poor tactics ruined practically every movement, although this was due to Bristol for fine defence work.

They won a game which Gloucester United as a superior team, should have won more decisively than by 8 pts. to nil, but bad finishing ruined much good work and spoiled many chances.