

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 1951

GLOUCESTER-BRISTOL CENTENARY BATTLE

POINTLESS DRAW WAS A FAIR RESULT

Neither Gloucester nor Bristol can justifiably feel aggrieved by the outcome of their Centenary Match at Kingsholm. A pointless draw was a fair result.

The defences were nearly always on top in a hard battle between two well-matched teams.

Although Bristol's threequarters had more attacking chances than Gloucester's backs and handled well, their opposite numbers allowed them very little rope.

Michael Baker's close marking of Ken Smith, the speedy Bristol left-wing, was especially praiseworthy.

On Bristol's other wing Jack Gregory, the Olympic sprinter, saw very little of the ball and when he did there were always two or three Gloucester men ready to pounce on him.

Gloucester's centres, Roy Sutton and Bill Cartmell, both did very well as individualists.

SLOW HEELING HANDICAP

The visitors had the advantage of a big, heavy pack and this enabled them to get more of the ball from the scrums and lines-out.

When Chamberlayne hooked the ball for Gloucester, slow heeling often proved too big a handicap for the half-backs to overcome.

It was unfortunate that the county selectors did not see Davies and Terrington operating together to the best advantage.

Although the heeling of the pack was partly to blame, Davies was inclined to be slow with his passes at times and Terrington's opportunities of initiating movements by the Gloucester backs were limited.

Shortly before the end Terrington hurt his shoulder and had to go off.

Any deficiencies by Gloucester's forwards in the set scrums was amply compensated for by their performances in the loose, which helped to keep Gloucester on the attack during long periods in the second-half, Hodge, Hudson and Parry being among the hardest workers.

Full-back Bill Hook made sure of his retention in the county side. His positioning in defence was excellent and his touch-finding accurate.

A draw was the fairest result in a game in which Bristol had the better of the play before the interval, while Gloucester dominated the second-half.