

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1951

LIVELY GLO'STER PACK CARRIED THE DAY

Despite the absence of three of their backs, including international Bill Hook, on County duty at Bridgwater, Gloucester had little difficulty in beating Old Paulines by three goals and two tries (21 pts.) to a goal (5 pts.) to maintain their ground record.

The home side outplayed the visitors in every department of the game, but it was their supremacy in the pack which proved the real match winning factor.

On the occasions the Old Paulines' back division received the ball they handled confidently and looked dangerous. Fortunately the Gloucester eight ensured that these occasions were rare.

Chiefly responsible for neutralising the Old Paulines' attacks were wing forwards P. Ford and Gordon Hudson who both numbered among the points scorers. The county selectors may already be regretting that they overlooked this pair.

Ford was the best forward on the field, always in the picture and the thickest part of the battle. He scored Gloucester's first try when he collected a loose ball to cross wide out and before the interval he repeated the performance.

Hudson's try was a typical thrustful effort. Receiving the ball after a Terrington-Cartmell handling movement he hurled himself over the line through a bunch of defenders.

But the backs were not absent from the scoring picture. Humphris was not severely worried by the Old Paulines wing forwards, and usually had plenty of time to distribute the ball.

At stand-off half Cartmell made full use of this excellent service from the base of the scrum. He was the livewire of the Gloucester attack, and the visitors were never able to master his quick-fire tactics.

Unfortunately, during the first half, the home centres made scant use of the opportunities provided by Cartmell. The wing three-quarters, Beamish and Crabtree, however, gave a fine display. Beamish scored the second try, to which was added tries by Wells and Hudson in the second half.

Full back Trevor Halls converted three tries, and ably deputised for Bill Hook. His movements were slow at times, although his kicking was sure and safe.

GLOUCESTER UNITED LUCKY TO ESCAPE DEFEAT

Having the better of the set scrums and enjoying a superiority at half-back, Gloucester United were, nevertheless, fortunate to escape defeat when they fought out a 6–6 draw with the North Gloucester Combination, particularly as the latter played with only 14 men for much of the second half.

In the threequarters, the United might have learnt several lessons from their clever opponents. Only minor infringements saved the United line after both centres had made runs which left the defence helpless.

Combination forwards, well led by Fred Broady, tore into the United pack like terriers. Roy Barton and Don Meadows, who scored their tries, were tireless workers.

The two full-backs, Don Heath (United), and Coney Hill youngster, Ray Smart, both saved their sides repeatedly. Heath, penalty goal, and Dennis Ibbotson, try, scored for United.