

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1951

GLO'STER BACKS TO THE FORE AT LAST

Gloucester Rugby Club gained another splendid home victory – their second biggest of the season – when they beat Devonport Services by four goals, a penalty goal and three tries (32 points) to a goal and a try (8 points).

Despite the wet ball and somewhat slippery surface underfoot, they treated the spectators to a grand exhibition of fast, open rugby and were good value for their win.

Credit is also due to the weakened Services' fifteen for the gallant way in which they fought back after being 21 points down at the interval.

One of the most gratifying features of Gloucester's display was the attacking power shown by the threequarter line. It functioned much more smoothly than in the majority of games this year. Passing was crisper and the wing men were at last given real opportunities.

HAPPPY RETURN

Stuart Troughton, appearing for the first time since last season, fitted in well in the centre and gave the back division added thrust. He and Howard Terrington played a prominent part in several of the Gloucester tries.

Charlie Crabtree – a last minute inclusion owing to the late arrival of Ron Beamish – and John Taylor were determined wing men.

The Davies-Cartmell half-back partnership again served Gloucester well, and the outside-half's tricky running launched many attacks.

HELD WHIP HAND

For most of the game Gloucester's forwards held the whip hand in all departments though their superiority in the loose was temporarily challenged during Devonport's second half rally.

The City pack's lineout work showed a big improvement, particularly so in the number of times that the ball was caught cleanly rather than being knocked back to the halves.

Peter Ford and Henry Wells were among Gloucester's best line-out forwards, and other members of the pack who showed good form included Gordon Hudson and the skipper, Jack Watkins.

Crabtree scored three of Gloucester's tries. Other tries were gained by Hudson (two) and Taylor (two). Trevor Halls converted four tries and kicked a penalty goal.

For the greater part of the game Gloucester showed all-round superiority and their three-quarter line really looked like one.