

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1951

GLO'STER DESERVED BETTER FATE AT BATH

Spectacular play by Gloucester's back division failed to break down a stubborn Bath defence, the Somerset club gaining a rather lucky victory by the only try of the match.

Bath, who were playing on their own ground, thus gained the distinction of being the only English club, apart from Bedford, who have managed to beat Gloucester.

Behind the scrum, Gloucester's superiority was so overwhelming that it seemed that sooner or later Bath must concede a score to their fast moving, quick handling opponents.

But fortune favoured the Somerset side in their great struggle to hold on to a three points lead, and although Gloucester came very close to scoring during some grand movements towards the end of the game, Bath just managed to keep the visitors out.

Territorially Bath had a good share of the play – particularly in the first half.

SPIRITED FORWARDS

This was mainly due to the spirited and untiring efforts of their forwards in the loose, the pack having a very able leader in Alec Lewis, who will be playing for England against the Springboks next month.

It was during strong pressure by the home forwards about a quarter of an hour after the interval that Trevor Lewis got the only try of the match.

Receiving good support from the rest of the Gloucester pack in the set scrums, Cyril Thomas out-hooked the former Gloucestershire player Fred Hill, and Gloucester also held the upper hand in the lines-out, where Wells and Ford did some good work.

SPLENDID HANDLING

John Teakle, deputising for Bill Cartmell at outside-half for Gloucester, combined well with scrum-half Vivian Davies and started some excellent passing movements.

With centres Terrington and Troughton handling in splendid style, the Gloucester three-quarters threw the ball about freely, sending it first to one wing and then to the other in a great attempt to pierce Bath's grim defence.

The match-winning type of rugby served up by Gloucester's backs did, in fact, merit a better reward.