

# THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1951

## GLOUCESTER XV HAD BETTER STAYING POWER

The Old Merchant Taylors' Boxing Day visit to Kingsholm was their 50th game against Gloucester and they celebrated the occasion by putting up one of the best performances they have yet given against their West Country rivals.

Although beaten by four tries (12 points) to a penalty goal and a try (6 points) they showed such good form behind the scrum that the issue was left in doubt until late in the game.

Gloucester's form – perhaps excusable at holiday time – did not reach the standard of recent games but they stood the pace better than the visitors and this proved a decisive factor. Not for many weeks have Gloucester seen so little of the ball from the set scrums and lines-out.

## OXFORD BLUE SPEARHEAD

The "Taylors" backs made good use of their more numerous opportunities and pleased the 8,000 spectators by their fast, open rugby.

D. G. S. Baker, the visitors' Oxford Blue outside-half, was one of the best players on the field. He was the spearhead of many of the O.M.T.'s most promising attacks and received fine support from a hard-running centre in J. G. Banwell.

Gordon Cumming, Gloucester's reserve scrum-half, improved steadily as the game progressed and got out some good passes when Gloucester were seeing more of the ball towards the end of the match. But Bill Cartmell, Gloucester's hard-working outside-half, undoubtedly missed his regular partner, Vivian Davies.

## TERRINGTON OUTSTANDING

The outstanding player in Gloucester's threequarter line was Howard Terrington, who showed up equally well in attack and defence.

The line as a whole, however, did not handle with as much confidence as the visiting threequarter line.

Gordon Hudson, who ran like a threequarter at times, was among the best members of the Gloucester pack which gradually wore down the opposition after a great struggle in the loose.

Hudson got two of Gloucester's tries and Thomas and Crabtree one each. Sharpe scored a try for the "Taylors" and Lee kicked a penalty goal.

Gloucester did not really wake up until the last 20 minutes but their greater staying power brought them victory.