

THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1951

GLO'STER LOST GROUND RECORD BECAUSE —

STRONG U.A.U. PACK TIPPED THE SCALES

After 14 home games without defeat, Gloucester Rugby Club lost their ground record yesterday when the Universities Athletic Union beat them at Kingsholm by a goal (5 points) to a try (3 points).

A well-balanced side, the visitors just deserved their win, though Gloucester put up a great fight and more than once looked as if they were going to save the day.

Despite the greasy ball and muddy conditions underfoot, play was comparatively open during the first part of the match.

Ultimately, however, the game resolved itself into a question of whether Gloucester's pack could break down the resistance of the opposing eight in the loose.

This they failed to do, strenuously though they tried.

The visitors' pack took all that Gloucester could hand out, came back for more and sometimes returned it with interest.

Bob Hodge and Gordon Hudson were, as usual, among the pick of Gloucester's forwards.

It was no fault of theirs that some of the spirited rushes which they led did not bring Gloucester the winning points.

THEY HAD MORE CHANCES

With the Union's eight holding an advantage in the set scrums and lines-out, the visitors' backs had more opportunities to open out than their opposite numbers.

On the whole they adapted themselves better to the bad conditions.

Among the visitors' most useful players was their Manchester University fullback, B. H. Fletcher who frequently foiled Gloucester's attempts to find a way through the U.A.U. defence.

The only scoring took place in the first half. Right-wing D. G. Symonds got a try for the visitors after less than five minutes, Hazell converting, and Hodge claimed a try for Gloucester shortly before the interval.

Late in the game Teakle featured in an enterprising break-away which looked as though it might bring Gloucester a score, but he delayed his pass too long.

One of the strongest visiting packs seen at Kingsholm this season played a leading part in the victory which deprived Gloucester of their ground record.