

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1952

GLO'STER FADE, LOSE AFTER PROMISING START

Only once defeated on their own ground, Gloucester Rugby Club were without several of their regular backs when they faced the might of a strong Army fifteen at Kingsholm this afternoon.

GLOUCESTER: W. G. Hook; J. Taylor, W. Brumfitt, W. Burrows, R. Beamish; W. Cartmell, G. Cumming; J. Watkins (capt.), C. Thomas, A. Wadley, H. G. Wells, G. Hastings, P. Ford, R. Hodge, G. Hudson.

THE ARMY: Capt. J. M. H. Roberts; 2nd Lt. A. G. I. Wood, Pte. J. Broome, Lt. St. J. Rhys, 2nd Lt. G. M. Milne; Lt. E. M. P. Hardy, Lt. D. W. Shuttleworth; Capt. B. J. B. Hazel, 2nd Lt. G. H. M. Richey, Cfn. S. G. Owen, Pte. I. Zaidman, O/Cdt. R. Gemmill, Capt. A. M. L. Morrison, Lt. W. P. Blask, 2nd Lt. D. S. Gilbert-Smith.

REFEREE: Mr. D. G. Walters (Gowerton).

Gloucester heeled from the first set-scrum and Brumfitt found a lovely touch almost on the Army line.

The Army extricated themselves from a nasty position but when the threequarters tried to open out keen Gloucester tackling, particularly on the part of Burrows and Beamish, quickly checked the movements.

Getting a good share of the ball in both the tight and the loose Gloucester kept the Army penned in their own territory for several minutes until Milne, the Army winger, broke away down the right touchline.

With play now in the Gloucester half the Army threequarters featured in two useful handling movements but they could not evade Gloucester's close marking.

CLOSE THING

When Gloucester once more returned the play to the Army half, Thomas got the ball back from four set scrums in succession.

Cumming and Cartmell gave their threequarters several useful opportunities but the line was not showing sufficient thrust in the centre at this stage to find a way through the Army defence.

Once, however, Taylor came very close on the right after taking a pass from Brumfitt and there was another thrill when Hook made a grand shot at a drop goal from 45 yards, which was only just wide of the posts.

The Army returned to the attack with a good threequarter movement but Taylor checked Wood with a great tackle.

Subsequently Hook who had been playing very well for Gloucester, was only just short with a splendid shot at a drop penalty goal.

The interval came with no score after a half in which Gloucester had, on the whole, had the better of the exchanges.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER Nil

THE ARMY Nil

The early stages of the second half saw the Army's pack getting a bigger share of the ball from the tight, but although half-backs Hardy and Shuttleworth often looked dangerous, faulty handling wasted several chances.

Gloucester forwards were playing a grand game in the loose and eventually Hodge and Hudson led a rush which brought the city club out of danger.

The Army backs now began to probe Gloucester's defence, however, throwing the ball about in a lively fashion and during one attack Hardy struck the upright with a shot at a drop goal.

The Army went ahead when the ball was kicked over the Gloucester line following a cross-punt and BLACK won the race for the touch-down. RHYS converted the try with a nicely-judged kick.

Gloucester's line had several narrow escapes during continued Army pressure but there was no further score.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER Nil
THE ARMY 1 gl. (5 pts.)

COMMENTS

Gloucester faded out after a promising start and lively play by the Army backs helped to keep them mainly on the defensive during the second half.

JC