

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 1952

TIGERS, ON TOP, FAIL TO QUENCH GLO'STER SPIRIT

Gloucester Rugby Club will have to wait another year before they can avenge the "double" which Leicester gained last season at their expense.

Playing at Welford-road on Saturday, they failed to repeat their earlier success against "The Tigers" at Kingsholm, and were beaten by a dropped goal, a penalty goal and a try (9 points) to a goal (5 points).

Although Gloucester started quite strongly, they never seemed to settle down properly on the heavy ground.

It was Leicester who showed the greater thrust in attack, and for long periods Gloucester's role was mainly a defensive one.

The visitors never gave up trying, however, and it says much for Gloucester's tenaciousness that they were the only side to score after the interval.

BOB HODGE IN FORM

Gloucester's forwards found themselves up against a lively pack who were a match for them in the loose.

But Bob Hodge was always a big handful and he received good support from Ford and Thomas.

Thanks to the efforts of Thomas in the set scrums, Gloucester's backs had a fair number of chances, but despite some hard work by Davies and Cartmell, the threequarter line was seldom able to get going in the face of Leicester's close marking.

Gloucester's wing-men, Taylor and Crabtree, saw very little of the ball.

The "Tigers" had a clever outside-half in W. K. Nicholas, who initiated a number of movements which gave the Gloucester defence a very trying time.

Leicester's points – all scored in the first half – were made up by a dropped goal, a penalty goal and a try.

These were scored respectively by Fisk, Lawrence and Cullen.

Gladwin scored Gloucester's try and Halls converted.

Gloucester fought hard, but on the run of play Leicester were worthy winners.

UNITED MADE BLUNDERS BUT DESERVED TO WIN

A cold wind, which swept Kingsholm ground accounted for many of the all too frequent mistakes in the Gloucester Utd. – Leicester "A" game, which the home side won by 6 points–3.

There was little to excite the crowd in an uninspiring game. Except perhaps for Wally Burrows – captain in the absence of Ivor Jones – both sets of backs lacked initiative and thrust.

In the Gloucester threequarter line, Beamish in the centre looked out of position, and Hill was slow off the mark and inclined to run across the field. The wings had few chances.

The two packs were well matched and honours were even between them in the tight and the loose.

Scorers for Gloucester United were B. Lane and T. Oakes (tries). D. Blascoe scored a try for Leicester.

Despite faults, however, the United were the better team, and deserved to win.

JC