

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1952

## GLO'STER SKIPPER SET FINE EXAMPLE

After neutralising Gloucester's first-half lead of eight points, Swansea had their "backs to the wall" in the later stages of a thrill-packed game at Kingsholm.

The speedy Welshmen's close marking and keen tackling kept Gloucester out, however, and the match ended with honours even – both sides scoring eight points.

It was a notable game from Gloucester's point of view, for in addition to checking one of the Welsh "Big Four" they also passed last season's aggregate of points.

Skipper Jack Watkins set the home pack a fine example, and the excellent hooking of Cyril Thomas, backed up by good scrummaging, brought Gloucester backs much more of the ball than their opposite numbers received.

Behind the scrum, Gloucester produced many sparkling movements, handling freely and throwing the ball about in a lively fashion.

Such tactics would undoubtedly have produced a crop of scores against any side with a less tenacious defence than that shown by Swansea.

John Taylor, on Gloucester's right wing, often gave the All Whites a lot of trouble but was never quite able to get clear.

Although Gloucester did the lion's share of the attacking, Swansea's backs, with limited opportunities, were always dangerous when in possession.

Both full-backs gave good displays – Bill Hook for Gloucester, positioning himself well and finding touch with length and accuracy.

Gloucester's points were made up by a penalty try, which Hook converted, and a penalty goal also kicked by Hook.

Edwards and Phillips scored tries for Swansea, Wilf Jones converting one.

### UNITED'S DOUBLE

Gloucester United, combining tactical kicking with quick-thinking, followed up their previous 32 pts. to 3 victory this season, when they beat Newport H.S.O.B. 13 pts. to 3 at Newport.

All the Gloucester scores were the result of snapping up opportunities afforded them by the brief relaxation in the Newport defence.

From the masterful manner in which they transformed a scoring situation into actual points it was obvious that the clinging mud failed to clog the threequarters' brains as it did their boots.

D. Hill, at centre for Gloucester United, was by far the most effective threequarter on the field, and his rapid positioning led to the first try by EMBLING and his own try in the second half.

Scrum-half B. Reade, always in the picture with his accurate service and pluck in stemming fierce Newport rushes, scored a particularly neat second half try when he eluded wing forwards on a blind side run for the Newport line.

HALL, at full-back, notched two conversions and DIXEY, for the "Old Boys" kicked a penalty goal.