

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, MARCH 3, 1952

GLO'STER DESERVED BETTER FATE . . .

UNITED NON-PLUSSED CLEVE

Although Gloucester were beaten 5–3 at Northampton, it was a game in which the points margin might just as easily have been in their favour as the other way round.

With hooker Cyril Thomas getting the ball back well in the first half, Gloucester tried hard to open up the game, but the "Saints" preferred to rely more on the bulldozer tactics of a very strong pack to carry them through.

Behind the scrum Gloucester showed better teamwork than Northampton and with more luck and slightly better finishing could have made the game safe before the interval.

Davies and Cartmell showed such good form at half-back that it seemed their efforts must inevitably bring Gloucester some points.

Twice Cartmell came within an ace of scoring, and Hodge and Taylor – again two of Gloucester's outstanding players – were also foiled on the Saints' line.

After the interval the Northampton pack stepped up their pressure but the Gloucester eight were nearly always able to give back as good as they got.

The Saints' forwards did get the upper hand for a short time, however, and it was at this stage that a breakaway by international forward D. F. White, enabled Butterfield to get a try which White converted.

Gloucester finished up very strongly but their only reward was a dropped goal landed by Michael Baker – his second in consecutive games.

Fullback Bill Hook gave another good exhibition, but missed a not too difficult penalty shot late in the game.

Verdict: Gloucester did not deserve to lose.

### UNITED'S 13TH WIN IN A ROW

Early hopes entertained by Cleve of springing a surprise on Gloucester United at Kingsholm quickly faded as the home side survived an onslaught in the opening minutes, and then switched relentlessly to the attack, finally winning 29pts.-3; their 13th consecutive victory.

There was no semblance of a weakness in this United team – surely the finest second string the City club have fielded for many years.

Wally Burrows, Roy Sutton and Don Hill, beautifully served by scrum-half Brian Reade, completely nonplussed the Cleve defenders.

Speedy wingers Roy Blair and Ron Beamish added the finishing touches, the former obtaining a "hat-trick," whilst Beamish crossed twice.

In the pack, hooker Brian Lane was again the master, while Ron Stower, Ivor Ryder and Fred Daniels were towers of strength.