

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, MARCH 24, 1952

GLO'STER EARNED GLORY IN MEMORABLE RALLY

Gloucester's amazing – and nearly successful – rally after Coventry had piled up 19 points against them – will provide a talking point for weeks to come among those who saw the game.

Crossing over 16 points behind at the interval the West Country side seemed booked for an overwhelming defeat when their line fell again soon after the re-start.

Yet so splendidly did they fight back that they brought their own points total to 16, thus reducing the margin of defeat to the narrow one of three points. They won glory in this rally, and defeat.

It was, in fact, touch and go whether Coventry would keep the lead at all, and many of their supporters must have experienced a certain "sinking feeling" as Gloucester relentlessly narrowed the gap.

To Gloucester's Trevor Halls – who had already kicked one grand penalty goal – fell the unenviable task of taking another very difficult penalty shot when the score stood at the final figures of 19-16. Though Halls made a fine effort, the kick missed by inches and Coventry breathed again.

Half-backs Vivian Davies and Bill Cartmell were again among Gloucester's outstanding players. Cartmell scored two good tries himself while Davies had a big hand in one of them and also in a try scored by Cyril Thomas. Halls converted two.

Despite their excellent performance in the later part of the match, Gloucester had been very slow to settle down in the face of lively tactics by Coventry's forwards. A tighter defence could have prevented at least two scores.

FULL VALUE

The Kingsholm crowd, who saw two matches for the price of one, really had their money's worth.

The first game, Gloucester and District Schools (15 group) versus a Warwickshire XV provided a feast of fast, open and enterprising rugby.

Gloucester were always the better side, particularly in the second half, and they thoroughly deserved their 21pts.-3 win.

In a good home threequarter line, Hart (Crypt) and captain, and James (Hatherley) were outstanding, while Allen (Crypt), their fullback, was always sound.

NO. 16 WAS NOT EASY

Gloucester United did not have such an easy time with Coventry Extra Firsts as their 16 pts. to 3 win suggests.

It was only through superb work in the loose by the Gloucester pack and fine opportunism by some of the threes that they were able to record this victory – the 16th in succession.

For the United, Reade was a tireless scrum-half, and Burrows a live-wire in attack. Among the threes Blair and Turner both did well, while Smith made a convincing debut at full-back.