

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 1952

## GLO'STER XIV FOUND NEWPORT TOO STRONG

Teams of Eskimos might have enjoyed playing rugby at Kingsholm on Saturday but it is a pretty safe bet that Gloucester and Newport – faces lashed by myriads of stinging snowflakes and hands numbed by the icy wind – were heartily thankful when the final whistle went.

Beaten by six points to nil, Gloucester suffered their first home defeat since the beginning of January.

It was only the second time that Newport have won on the Gloucester ground since before the war.

The blizzard made conditions anything but suitable for good rugby and although both sides – particularly Newport – tried to open up the game in the earlier stages, the elements proved too much for them.

Whether Gloucester would have been beaten if they had not lost Ford, with a damaged bone in his foot, mid-way through the second half is a very debatable point.

Up to then neither side had been able to score and on Gloucester's performance they had quite deserved to hold the Usksiders to a draw.

Gloucester's forwards played up so vigorously during the first half that Newport, defending in the teeth of the snowy wind, often had difficulty in keeping the home side at bay.

In fact the "Cherry and Whites" might have built up a winning lead during this part of the game if they had made more of their chances.

With the home pack reduced to seven, however, the scales were definitely tipped in Newport's favour and after this Gloucester's role was mainly a defensive one.

Roy Burnett, Newport's wily outside-half, who had been receiving a good deal of attention from Hudson and Ford, opened his side's account with a drop-goal, and Gloucester's fate was sealed when Len Davies crashed over for an unconverted try.

Newport, with more handling chances, looked the more dangerous side behind the scrum but thanks to Gloucester's close marking and the atrocious weather conditions their backs were rarely able to get into their stride.

#### UNITED RUN ENDS

After 16 consecutive wins Gloucester United's all-conquering ways were brought abruptly to a halt by Newport United[*sic*], who won by 11 points to nil in a game which might well have been called off.

The persistent snowstorm and the atrocious conditions underfoot, worsened by the schoolboys' international match played earlier, made it a particularly unspectacular affair.

United sadly missed the services of hooker Brian Lane, for Newport heeled monotonously and Welsh international Glyn Davies should have had a comparatively easy afternoon at the base of the scrum.

Yet he had little advantage over young Brian Reade, who was United's star performer.

At outside-half Burrows often bamboozled the defence with his side-step, while in the pack, which kept a firm grip on their opponents, Redman, Stower, Ryder and Daniells were outstanding in the fierce forward exchanges.