

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1952

BAKER WAS HERO OF GLO'STER'S NOTABLE WIN

Enhancing his reputation as one of Gloucester's leading drop-goal experts, Michael Baker was the hero of the Club's late victory over Llanelly at Kingsholm.

Until three minutes from "no-side" it looked as though the game was going to end in a 5-5 draw.

Then Baker received the ball 45 yards out from the Scarlet's goalposts, steadied himself and dropped for goal.

It was a grand kick from that distance, and the crowd gave a great roar of delight as the ball passed just inside the right-hand post – clearing the crossbar with yards to spare – and brought Gloucester victory by 8 pts. to 5.

Though Llanelly could justifiably consider themselves unlucky to lose, it was no small achievement on Gloucester's part to become the first and probably the only English club to beat the famous Scarlets this season.

In addition to this, Gloucester's victory gave them the satisfaction of knowing that they still have a chance to set up a new record of 30 wins in a single season.

Until Llanelly lost wing three-quarter M. Griffiths with a fractured leg after half-an-hour's play, the Scarlets' lively backs, with plenty of handling chances, gave Gloucester's defence a harassing time.

Griffith's injury then forced the visitors to deplete their pack by bringing Jones onto the wing, and it was shortly after this that a Hudson try, beautifully converted by Halls, gave Gloucester the lead.

In the second half, the Scarlets' seven forwards were unable to get possession of the ball so frequently, but their backs still looked quite capable of pulling the game out of the fire.

Thanks, however, to the efforts of the Gloucester forwards and to a sound defence the home line was crossed on only one occasion.

JC