

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1952

GLOUCESTER IN BETTER FORM

The first invaders from an outside county to land at Kingsholm this season were successfully – though not altogether brilliantly – repulsed by Gloucester.

In beating Exeter 14–8, the Cherry and Whites showed considerably more life than against Lydney. But weaknesses were still very evident in more than one department.

One point in Gloucester's favour . . . this time it was they who had to struggle through half the game with only 14 men on the field.

And strangely enough, they played up better when labouring under this handicap than they had done in the first half.

As a result of the pulled leg muscle suffered by Stuart Troughton just before the interval, spectators had the opportunity of seeing speedy Gloucester wing-forward Dennis Ibbotson make his debut in the centre.

Alas for "Ibby" his chances to shine in orthodox movements were very, very limited.

His opportunism, determination and quickness to pounce upon an Exeter mistake did, however, bring Gloucester a very nice try.

AGAIN IN FORM

Hefty second-row forward John Gwilliam was again in form, and his excellent backing-up set an example which some of his teammates would have done well to copy more often.

Gloucester's scrummaging still left much to be desired, and there were times when a faster service from the scrum was needed to get the back division really going.

And, please, Gloucester three-quarters, try and learn a lesson from the type of play produced by Exeter threes during the visitors' late second-half rally.

Make the ball do the work and don't bunch together so much. It will pay dividends !

Gloucester's tries were scored by Bevan, Ibbotson, Ford and Nield, Halls converting one.

Brown and Soper scored tries for Exeter, the second being converted by Brown.

SPEEDY UNITED

With the score at half-time standing at 11pts.–8 in favour of Gloucester United, it seemed that Drybrook were going to run their visitors to a close finish.

But the second half saw United get on top when greater speed and penetration stood them in good stead and gave them victory by 25pts.–11.

Drybrook played well throughout, and never gave up trying.

A splendid effort late in the second half by B. Wilkes brought Drybrook a well deserved try.

But their man of the match was A. Simpson, who scored eight of his side's eleven points by kicking a penalty and scoring a try which he also converted.

Gloucester United's pack, strengthened by the inclusion of Cyril Thomas and Gordon Hudson, worked hard and the latter was often prominent with good runs.

Gloucester United scorers were Blair (2 tries), I. Oakes (2 tries), Hobbs (1 try), Smith (2 penalty goals and 2 conversions).

JC