

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1952

GLOUCESTER'S WEAKNESS WAS IN THE CENTRE.

Diminutive Bedford outside-half "Titch" Haynes scored all but three of his side's points when the East Midlands beat Gloucester 14-6 at Kingsholm.

Extremely resourceful in helping Bedford to make the most of limited opportunities, it was Haynes who was star of the late rally which suddenly upset Gloucester's applecart.

With the scores level and less than 10 minutes to go, he shook the Cherry and Whites by sending the ball over their crossbar for a very nice drop goal.

And to add insult to injury it was "Titch" who delivered the knockout blow by following up a good threequarter movement with an excellent try which he himself converted.

Up against one of the most formidable fifteens in England Gloucester gave a good account of themselves, but their threequarter line lacked the speed and thrust of the Bedford quartet.

CLOSELY MARKED

Thanks to their forwards, who were very strong in the loose and won the lion's share of the ball in the tight, Gloucester had the visitors defending for long periods.

And half-backs, Davies and Cartmell, worked hard to try and find a way of breaking down Bedford's cast-iron defence.

The outside-half featured in several brilliant runs, though he in common with the rest of Gloucester's back division, was very closely marked. Gloucester's main weakness was in the centre, where slowness and lack of punch wasted a lot of chances.

Ex-schoolboy international Bill Smith gave a promising display in his first appearance as fullback for the premier side.

Gloucester's score was made up of two penalty goals, kicked by Michael Baker.

Haynes's other score for Bedford was a penalty goal, and Oakley also got a try.

It was a thrilling game which Gloucester could have won had the backs made full use of their opportunities.

SUTTON THE STAR

Gloucester United had to struggle hard for their 6 pts.—nil win at Worcester, but had Trevor Halls had better luck with three penalty kicks, they would have won comfortably. On each occasion, he had the misfortune to hit the upright and the ball rebounded into play for the home side to clear.

Star of the Gloucester team was Roy Sutton, who has had a lean time in recent matches. Besides scoring his side's first try he was responsible for the second which was scored by Evans after some clever backing up. In the scrums, Worcester had their share of the ball and there was nothing to choose between Hobbs and Wilkes, the scrum halves.

It was the superior handling of the Gloucester outsiders that tipped the scales in their favour.