

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1952

THE CRITICS SUM UP

GLO'SHIRE MERITED THE WOODEN SPOON

Until half-time Gloucestershire looked to have an outside chance of snatching their first County championship win of the season. They were leading by a prodigious penalty goal kicked by full-back Walter.

Alas, alack – Cornwall stoked up in the second half and swept to an 8pts. to 3 win which in no way flattered their superiority.

They handed the home county the wooden spoon for the South-West Division championships – a gift unwillingly accepted but unfortunately deserved.

Gloucestershire saw little of the ball after the interval except defensively. From the set scrums F. Sampson hooked well to give Cornwall a monopoly, and Oliver, at stand-off, was fast and clever enough to tie up the opposition and give his centres plenty of scope.

They made full use of it with M. Jenkins (right centre) a tougher proposition to Gloucestershire than his international colleague, J. M. Williams.

IBBOTSON INSPIRED

That Cornwall did not build up a substantial lead was due to some dour, backs-to-the-wall, defensive work, and some inspired play by the Gloucestershire wing forwards, Dennis Ibbotson and Cliff Price. Both played well but Ibbotson was outstanding – time and again he saved his side with his deadly tackling.

The Gloucester half back combination of W. B. Cartmell and V. Davies started off well but their opportunities grew increasingly less as the game progressed and they began to make mistakes.

In the centre Glyn Davies (Bristol) and skipper David Hughes (Lydney) were also restricted, and were given few chances of showing their ability. On the all too few occasions when they emerged from the general ruck of defensive work they always looked as if they would start something.

Apart from their second half advantage from the set scrums the Cornwall pack were well held by their Gloucestershire counterparts.

In addition to Ibbotson and Price, the two Gloucester forwards, Wells and Hodge, impressed with their capacity and ability for hard work.

JC