

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1952

THRILLING ENCOUNTER

In one of the most thrilling Boxing Day encounters ever seen at Kingsholm, Gloucester nearly allowed Old Merchant Taylors to get away with their first victory over the Cherry and Whites since the 'thirties.

When it seemed that all was lost, however, Gloucester pulled a magnificent effort out of the bag and "pipped" their traditional visitors 10pts.-8.

Though Gloucester perhaps took things a little too easily in the earlier part of the match and frittered away a number of chances, the Taylors deserved full marks for their spirited play.

They did not see so much of the ball from the lines-out and scrummages but made up for this by their excellent covering and backing up.

Gloucester's backs, with more of the ball than their opposite numbers, had the right ideas.

But their handling was not always up to standard – possibly due to the "Christmas spirit."

CARTMELL IN LIVELY FORM

England trialist and Oxford University star Doug. Baker was in fine form at outside-half for the Taylors, both in attack and defence

He was injured in the first two minutes – but returned with a bandaged ankle to play a gallant game.

But Baker did not overshadow Gloucester's Bill Cartmell, who worked with tremendous energy to try and carve out openings for the Cherry and Whites.

It was Doug. Baker who shook Gloucester after 25 minutes with a splendid drop goal following a scrum in front of the home goalposts.

Just before half-time, Cartmell sent Turner over for a try, and Michael Baker converted to give Gloucester the lead.

BRILLIANT TRY

There was no further score until eight minutes from "no-side," when Doug, Baker made a break near the half-way line, and F. I. Lee, the O.M.T.'s right wing, rounded off a crisp movement – after beating three men – with a brilliant try which Huskisson converted. Small wonder the crowd applauded for fully a minute !

Following this the Taylor's seemed to have a counter for everything that Gloucester tried. And, when what appeared to be a rather doubtful knock-on after an all-out burst down the centre of the field by Cartmell, all hope seemed to have gone.

VICTORY POINTS IN LAST MINUTES

But two minutes from the end a long pass by John Gwilliam – one of Gloucester's outstanding forwards – started the movement which brought victory for the Cherry and Whites.

Baker and Terrington timed things well and it was left to Ernest Turner, himself half-tackled, to struggle over wide out after a great run. Michael Baker converted from a not very easy position, and Gloucester had won !

About 7,000 people saw the game.