

## THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1952

### GLO'STER DESERVED TRIUMPH IN FOG

Gloucester had revenge for the loss of their ground record last season when they defeated Universities Athletic Union at Kingsholm by 11pts.-3[sic]; but only sections of the 5,000 crowd saw the points scored.

Fog, which hung over the city all day, descended so heavily half-way through the game that the white ball was used for the first time in the club's history in a home match.

But even the white ball could not pierce the gloom sufficiently to follow play throughout.

A deep-throated roar, rising to a crescendo, was the only indication that Gloucester were pounding away at the visitors' line on the opposite side of the ground.

And when Michael Baker landed his second goal – a magnificent kick – the referee had to consult the linesman before allowing the points.

### BACK IN COMPLETE CONTROL.

Amid the gloom, Gloucester re-emerged as well-deserved winners.

Their pack, with Bob Hodge, John Gwilliam and Peter Ford outstanding, wore down the Union's lively forwards in the second half . .

[2 or 3 lines unreadable]

. . . effort to open up the play, but the home three-quarters were the more polished and forceful, with Baker, surely Gloucester's most-improved player, having a great game.

## WINGERS HARRASSED DEFENDERS

Wingers Taylor and Turner gave the harassed Union defence a harrowing time whenever they gained possession.

Hobbs, though he did not always find Cartmell, got through a great deal of hard work at the base of the scrum.

Apart from his two penalties, Baker, with another grand kick converted a try by Ford. P. J. Taylor crossed for the Union, Delight adding the points.

Gloucester, despite the conditions, were always the more impressive side and the margin of victory by no means flattered them.

## BLAIR CROWNED GOOD DAY'S WORK

Gloucester United figured in two fog incidents.

The start against Cleve at Bristol was delayed 20 minutes, and when it was impossible to see more than a few yards, United scored the winning try in the last minute.

But United's 6pts.-3 win was just about merited. But only just. In the first half Gloucester were far from convincing.

Halls can assume the blame for Cleve's try in the second minute. The full-back failed to gather the ball, and Fairbrother was presented with a gift try. After this lapse Halls did splendidly.

Blair, whose speed frequently left the opposition standing, crossed in the last minute to crown a good afternoon's work.

All the forwards did well, but were matched by an equally good Cleve pack.

Slightly inferior in the loose, the United were better served behind the scrum.

Hudson's equalising try was a gem.

JC