

THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1953

GLO'STER PACK – AND BAKER – TRIP THE ARMY

Unbeaten for two years, the Army "came a cropper" at Kingsholm yesterday when Gloucester gained a well-deserved 13pts.–6 victory.

It was the Cherry and White's first win over the Service team since 1947-48 – and this year the visitors' side included six internationals !

A hero of the match was Gloucester centre Michael Baker, who insisted on turning out for the club although fighting an attack of 'flu.

FORWARDS ON TOP

He collected no fewer than 10 of Gloucester's 13 points, and running strongly, was one of the club's best backs.

But much of the credit for Gloucester's win went to their grand pack.

Reserve hooker Mervyn Burford gained his side a monopoly of the ball in the set scrums, and with Gwilliam, Ford, and Wells showing good form in the lines-out, Gloucester generally had the better of things in this department as well.

The battle in the loose was hard and no quarter was asked.

But here again it was the forceful tactics displayed by the Gloucester eight which, more often than not, dictated the way things should go.

John Hobbs sent out a long service from the scrum, but his partnership with Bill Cartmell took a bit of time to settle down.

DANGEROUS CARTMELL

Later in the game, however, the outside-half became increasingly dangerous.

He made the running for the second of Gloucester's tries and was indirectly responsible for the other one.

The Gloucester three-quarters, although they did not always handle smoothly – produced several good movements which might have penetrated a less determined defence than that shown by the Servicemen.

ARMY LOST CHANCES

Things could, however, have gone rather differently had the fast-moving Army three-quarters seen more of the ball.

They worried Gloucester in the closing stages of the game, but unsatisfactory finishing lost them chances.

Gloucester's tries were scored by Ibbotson and Baker, the latter converting both and kicking a penalty goal.

Tippett got a try for the Army, and Thompson – who served his side exceedingly well as full-back – kicked a penalty goal.

This victory was a notable achievement on the part of Gloucester, who are now unbeaten since the middle of November.