

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 1953

HANDICAPPED GLO'STER FOUND WASPS TOO LIVELY

Until Gloucester lost outside-half Bill Cartmell with a damaged stomach muscle, it looked as though they would prove more than a match for the Wasps at Sudbury.

For the first quarter of an hour nearly all the attacking was done by the Cherry and Whites and the Londoners' line had more than one narrow escape. But with Gloucester reduced to 14 men, the whole picture changed, and Wasps finished up winners by 11-pts. to 3.

Obliged to put Ibbotson in the centre when Terrington went outside-half, Gloucester soon found that it was going to be a tough job for the seven forwards to hold the heavy Wasps' pack on such a muddy ground.

And splendid though the gallant Gloucester seven struggled – Ford, Wells and Stower being always in the thick of things – the odds proved a bit too much.

Yet despite their handicap Gloucester appeared to last better and were pressing again in the closing stages but without being able to wipe out the Wasps' lead.

LIVELY THREES

While the forwards were battling away in the mud, both back divisions found the conditions too bad for them to play constructive rugby with any great success.

Wasps' threes were lively enough, however, to make good use of two of their chances, the try scored by right-centre A. L. Stalder being a really spectacular effort.

For Gloucester, Howard Terrington, captaining the side in the absence of Bob Hodge, did a grand job in defence. Several times he was instrumental in keeping the Wasps at bay when the Londoners were going all out for a score.

The Wasps' points – in addition to the try by Stalder, which he converted himself – came from a try by Hobson and a dropped goal by Marker.

Michael Baker reduced the arrears with a nicely judged penalty goal for Gloucester.

COULD HAVE BEEN MORE

Had they made a more determined move to master and overcome the spoiling tactics of their opponents during the first half, Gloucester United would undoubtedly have chalked up victory by a far greater margin over the less experienced Old Luctonians. They deserved their 26-nil win nevertheless.

The visitors took careful note of Gloucester's score in the third minute and kept the ball too close, resulting in a damper being put on the home side's efforts to open out.

The restart, however, saw United fired with tactics to counter-balance those of Luctonians, who succumbed to a thrustful back division with the forwards dominating in the loose.

United were well served by scrum-half David Jones, and speedy winger Blair, who scored a "hat-trick" of tries. David Jones crossed twice and Crabtree once. Halls added the points on four occasions.