

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1953

BRISTOL DESERVED THEIR KINGSHOLM WIN

To Gloucester Rugby Club it must have seemed an unkind trick of fate that Bristol were able to field their strongest side of the season for the Kingsholm match.

Well below their usual form, Gloucester offered surprisingly poor resistance to their West Country rivals and could hardly have complained if the margin of defeat had been greater than 12 pts.–6.

This reverse gave Bristol their first win at Kingsholm for 18 years, and ended the Cherry and Whites' 16 weeks unbeaten home run.

Gloucester's pack – heroes of many fine victories this season – failed to hold the Bristol eight on this occasion. And here lay the main reason for the Cherry and Whites' defeat. A performance which might have got the better of an average pack was just not good enough to cope with one as forceful as Bristol's.

SET PACE – AND KEPT IT UP

The visiting eight set the pace, and what's more they kept it up right to the end. Lively in the loose, they were quicker on the ball than Gloucester, and after the first quarter of an hour they also had the better of things in the scrummages.

If Gloucester did gain possession, the back division was often unable to get going quickly enough, and visiting wing-forwards Moule and Scott proved troublesome to reserve fly-half David Jones.

Whenever Gloucester looked dangerous they found Bristol full-back, T. U. Wells, a big stumbling block.

TAYLOR, THE TRIER

John Taylor, on Gloucester's right wing, did not receive many chances, but played his usual lion-hearted game whenever he got the ball.

He scored his side's second half try and was unlucky not to have had an earlier one before the interval.

Despite their more numerous opportunities Bristol were by no means brilliant behind the scrum, though Welsh international Glyn Davies gave a useful display at outside-half.

Gloucester's other score was a penalty goal kicked by Michael Baker.

Moule and Smith scored tries for Bristol, who also gained penalty goals through Bain and Cripps.

UNITED FAIL TO GET DOUBLE

Gloucester United failed to complete the double over Bristol United when they lost by 8pts.–17 at the Memorial Ground.

The home side dominated the first half and, in spite of some excellent tackling and kicking by T. Halls at full back, crossed the visitors' line on three occasions.

Little was seen of Gloucester United's back division until after the interval when outside half L. Morgan found gaps in the Bristol defence.

He was well backed up by C. Crabtree who, apart from scoring two tries – one converted by Halls – broke up many Bristol breaks through.

The two packs broke even in the set scrums, but the Bristol men showed more life and spirit in the loose.

For Gloucester I. Jones and G. Counsell were the pick of the forwards.

JC