

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1953

## DEPLETED GLOUCESTER NEARLY SNATCHED VICTORY

The faces of Neath supporters dropped on Saturday when, less than a quarter of an hour from "no side," they saw Gloucester capture the lead from the All Blacks through a converted penalty try.

This was only the second penalty try awarded on the Knoll ground since before the war, and referee Mr. Dai Richard, of Cwmgors, did not think twice about giving it.

Peter Ford and John Gwilliam – two of Gloucester's best forwards – had featured in a strong break-away near the right touchline, and Ford, who carried on determinedly with the ball at his feet, had the line at his mercy until he was impeded by a defender.

Alas, Gloucester could not hold the lead which they gained as a result of this incident, and the issue was settled in Neath's favour when Albert Williams got a try which Evans converted to give the All Blacks an 8–5 win.

## TEAMS HANDICAPPED BY HIGH WIND

The result was a fair one. On the whole Neath had had the better of things, and only poor finishing deprived them of a bigger tally of points.

A boisterous wind blowing across the ground was a handicap to good open play.

But behind the scrum Neath – whose half-back partners, C. Thomas and Louis Daniel, was in useful form[*sic*] – generally looked the more dangerous side.

Gloucester's backs did not have so many opportunities, and it was not often that their threequarters were seen in action – though Terrington and Turner probed the Neath defence on occasions.

Neath's strong pack, which included internationals Rees Stephens and Roy John, proved something of a handful for Gloucester in the first half.

#### CAPTAIN INSPIRED THE PACK

After the interval, however, the Gloucester forwards, inspired by Bob Hodge, found more fire and gave back as good as they got.

It was largely due to their determined efforts that victory was nearly snatched from Neath's grasp.

Gloucester full-back, Bill Smith, found himself in some tight corners, but gave a creditable display under pressure.

Neath's first try was scored by international trialist wing three-quarter J. Huins. Howard Terrington added the goal points to Gloucester's penalty try.

#### SUCCESS WAS WELL DESERVED

Gloucester United well deserved their 14pts.–3 success over a strong Newport HSOB side who have taken "scalps" off Cardiff Athletic and Bath United this season.

United took their chances when favoured by the wind in the first half and fought for territorial advantage yard by yard in the second with forward rushes.

Threequarters' movements were inclined to break down at the crucial moment, but this was largely due to the wind.

Prominent were Michael Baker, Alan Baimbridge and David Jones; the forwards all gave of their best and full-back Trevor Halls played a safe game.

United scorers were David Jones, Baimbridge and Burford. Halls converted one try. The visitors' points came from penalty right on time.

JC