

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1953

TAYLOR TRY WAS HIGHLIGHT OF GLOUCESTER'S VICTORY

For the first time for many years, United Services could boast a better playing record than Gloucester when the two sides met for their latest trial of strength at Kingsholm.

And though weakened by late changes, the Servicemen gave the home team one of the best games of the season before being beaten 17-11.

One highlight was the great try by John Taylor which marked the turning point of the game after United Services had led 11-8 at half-time. Put in possession by Howard Terrington with 45 yards to go, the winger produced his best form and hurtled over the line after jinking and body-swerving his way past four defenders.

PLENTY OF THRILLS

Apart from occasional mis-handling – which did rob the side of one or two tries – Gloucester's three-quarters gave a good account of themselves. With the most dangerous thrusts usually coming from the Terrington-Taylor flank, they handled freely when given the ball, and provided the crowd with plenty of thrills.

The city club's reserve half-backs, Billy Nield and Lewis Morgan got in some useful work, but did not always make the most of their opportunities.

They were, however, handicapped to a certain extent by slow heeling which, at times, tended to nullify Gloucester's advantage when Cyril Thomas had won the strike in the set scrums.

Services' outsides had fewer opportunities than Gloucester's, but their forwards – under the capable leadership of D. B. Vaughan – made up for this by a virile display in the loose.

Their strong rushes often had the Cherry and Whites in trouble, but they were unable to master the indomitable Gloucester eight for any length of time.

IN THE FOREFRONT

Bob Hodge was often in the forefront of vigorous counter-attacks by the Gloucester pack, and John Gwilliam, Peter Ford and Dennis Ibbotson were, as usual, outstanding among the other forwards.

The game was, on the whole, a very even one, with the determination and resourcefulness of the Gloucester threequarters turning the scales in the city club's favour.

United Services lost two players with minor injuries in the last five minutes.

Gloucester's tries were scored by Gwilliam, Taylor, and Turner. Michael Baker converted one, and also kicked two penalty goals.

Vaughan and Carter got tries for United Services, Harries converting one and kicking a penalty goal.

UNITED TRIUMPH IN WALES

Gloucester United, who travelled to Barry, gained a hard-earned 12pts.–9 success.

Full-back T. Halls, the coolest player on the field, opened Gloucester's scoring with a penalty.

And not long afterwards D. Jones gave Gloucester a six-point lead.

Despite this setback, the home team fought back and Cahill equalised, with two easy penalties.

In the last half two unconverted tries by D. Jones and C. Crabtree made the issue safe for Gloucester.

Ken Healey scored an unconverted try to reduce the margin.

Honours in this game went to the two backs.

JC