

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1953

DRAMATIC TACKLE ENSURES FINE GLOUCESTER VICTORY ;

CITY WOKE UP TO GAIN MERITED POINT

Swansea 8 points, Gloucester 10 points. That was how Saturday's game ended at St. Helen's – but had it not been for a memorable tackle by John Taylor, Gloucester would have been deprived of the proud honour of beating one of the Welsh "Big Four" on their own ground.

With Gloucester holding a well-deserved 10–8 lead, there came a dramatic moment in the later stages of the game.

Swansea's international winger Horace Phillips had broken away with 50 yards to go, a clear field in front of him and another threequarter outside him.

Though it seemed that nothing could prevent a Swansea score, John Taylor, speeding grimly after his man, was seen to be gaining on Phillips inch by inch.

Needing only to pass outside to put a score beyond all doubt, Phillips decided instead to go for the line himself. And this proved his undoing !

Making a last superhuman effort, Taylor flung himself at the Swansea winger from behind and crashed him down within a couple of feet of the Gloucester line.

Gloucester's worries were still not over, for they found themselves penned on their own line for several minutes, with their former scrum-half Vivian Davies all set to make one of his lightning breaks in the hope of bringing Swansea the winning try.

But the Cherry and Whites' grand defence did not crack and they were at last able to clear their line.

GOOD DISPLAY BY FORWARDS

Apart from this relatively short period in the second half, Gloucester nearly always looked a match for Swansea – and their teamwork was definitely superior to that of the All Whites.

Hodge, Gwilliam and Ford were again outstanding in a grand Gloucester pack which gave a dashing display and usually had the edge of the Swansea eight in the loose.

Slippery conditions handicapped the backs on both sides, but Gloucester's threequarters did surprisingly well in the circumstances and centres Michael Baker and Howard Terrington were generally more impressive than their Swansea opposite numbers.

Deputy outside-half Lewis Morgan gave his best display so far for Gloucester.

It was a nicely-placed kick ahead on his part which helped to bring about their second try.

Full-back Trevor Halls also had a good game for Gloucester. Some of his defensive work in the second half was particularly valuable to the Cherry and Whites.

Turner and Terrington scored Gloucester's tries, Baker converting both with two excellent kicks.

Johnson's try for Swansea was converted by Ken Richards, who also kicked a penalty goal.

UNITED HAD TO FIGHT

Gloucester United thoroughly deserved their 21pts. to eight victory over Cleve at Kingsholm, but they had to fight hard.

They owe their success to the back division who far outclassed their opposite numbers, but in the loose the visitors proved to be slightly more dangerous.

At times the game tended to be scrappy and this was due to the persistence of Cleve players getting off-side and the rough and tumble tactics when under pressure.

The half backs and backs all gave of their best but David Jones, Bill Cartmell and Bill Nield came to the fore. It would be a thankless task to select an outstanding forward. Bill Smith at full-back justified his selection.

Scorers for United were: Nield (2 tries), Jones (try), Oakes (try). Smith converted three tries and kicked a penalty goal.

JC