

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 1953

R.A.F. FAILED TO MASTER GLOUCESTER DEFENCE

Defeating the Royal Air Force 6–5 at Kingsholm, Gloucester topped their 300 points for the season and maintained an unbeaten run which has now lasted for six weeks. But their narrow victory over the Airmen will certainly not rank as one of their best performances of the season.

Indeed, Gloucester were so harassed for much of the last quarter of the game that they could consider themselves rather lucky that they managed to cling to their one point lead.

Until mid-way through the second half, Gloucester – thanks largely to the efforts of their forwards in the loose – had rather more than held their own.

But at this stage the always dangerous Air Force back division really clicked into gear, and outside-half M. R. Channer launched some fast-moving attacks which severely tried the Gloucester defence. At times Gloucester's tackling showed unaccountable weaknesses.

CHANCES SQUANDERED

The home team's form in attack was disappointing. Chances were thrown away, and behind the scrum they were not so impressive as the visitors. Inability by the forwards to get the ball back cleanly from the tight often proved a big handicap.

Gloucester did have their moments, however, and powerful runs by Michael Baker occasionally threatened the visitors with real danger.

Roy Sutton, back in the centre for the first time since the autumn, was one of Gloucester's soundest players in defence.

Wing forwards Peter Ford and Dennis Ibbotson got in some good work, and their quick breaking helped to keep the R.A.F. backs comparatively subdued in the earlier part of the game.

Baker kicked a penalty goal for Gloucester and Ford scored a try. Beatson got a try for the Air Force and Channer added the goal points.

MEADOWS AND HUDSON SHINE

Gloucester United's visit to Bromsgrove provided an interesting clash, but the game was spoiled by too much whistle, both sides often being penalised.

Bromsgrove were perhaps lucky not to lose by more than 5pts.-17, but they made United go all the way for the points and never stopped trying.

In the tight scrums Bromsgrove had rather the better of things, but Gloucester's loose forward dribbles were very effective, Meadows and G. Hudson in particular being a constant source of worry to the defence.

United had the more capable three-quarter line, but their movements were often broken up by determined tackling by Bromsgrove, who gave nothing away.

Indecision and erratic passing spoiled several movements, but United were well on top.

Gloucester's tries came from Gordon Hudson (two), who played a splendid game, D. Jones and Meadows, Blair converting one, and G. Hudson kicked a penalty goal. P. Dyer scored for Bromsgrove, McCracken converting.