

THE CITIZEN

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GLOUCESTER XV DID NOT STRIKE BEST FORM . . .

BUT UNITED GAINED RECORD SMASHING VICTORY

The wasp-coloured jerseys of Newport RFC are now becoming as big a bogey to Gloucester as were the blue-striped colours of Cardiff between 1945 and 1952.

Though well below full strength Newport, by virtue of their 14–6 win at Kingsholm, gained another "double" at Gloucester's expense and ended the Red and Whites' eight weeks unbeaten run.

It is four years since Gloucester last got the better of the famous Usksiders.

Newport's latest win was fully deserved, but they found a Gloucester who did not strike anything like their best form.

Thanks to the efforts of their forwards in the loose – and none worked harder than Ford, Hodge, Stower and Wells – Gloucester had a good share of the play.

But several times they failed to make the best use of their opportunities when within striking distance of the visitors' line.

MALCOLM LEWIS HAD FIELD DAY

Newport had the advantage of a plentiful supply of the ball from scrums and lines-out and as a result the visitors' backs had many more handling chances than their opposite numbers.

Most of the attacks by Newport's outsiders foundered against a sturdy Gloucester defence, but the visitors gained two tries through the quickness of outside-half Bryn Williams to seize an opening.

In both instances he made the running for thrustful centre Malcolm Lewis – normally a fullback – to get the scores.

Lewis did, in fact, have quite a field-day for by also getting a penalty goal and converting a try scored by Bodenham, he claimed no fewer than 11 of his team's 14 points.

Gloucester's play behind the scrum was not up to Newport's standard, but it was a good break by outside-half Lewis Morgan which led up to the try scored by Ron Stower.

The home side's other points came from a penalty goal landed by Michael Baker.

UNITED HALT THE SLAUGHTER !

Rodney Parade was once jocularly referred to as Newport United abattoir – a place where visiting teams were brought meekly in to the slaughter.

For not since 1948-49 season had a second team won there. And most had been "slaughtered" unmercifully.

But Gloucester United broke the sequence by gaining a splendid win and capturing the record.

When David Jones scored a brilliant try for United in the first three minutes, home supporters, after recovering from the shock, applauded sportingly.

The latest "victims," they thought, had plenty of spirit. How right they were !

But they failed to realise until the second half just how fiery that spirit was. Even the interval deficit could be wiped out, said they, with the wind in Newport's favour.

ROSE TO THE OCCASION

Yet Gloucester United rose to the occasion magnificently. They overcame the conditions better than the Welshmen, who were a well-beaten side long before the final whistle.

David Jones was the inspiration in the visitors' back division. Despite the treacherous surface he made several dazzling runs and his defensive kicking was superb.

Bill Smith, too, had a great day at full-back, while centres Gordon Hudson and Ivor Oakes gave their opposite numbers no chance.

Of the pack, magnificently led by Ivor Jones, Wadley, Solomon and Meadows repeatedly caught the eye, but the whole team earned the highest praise for a remarkable achievement. Well done, United !

Scorers for Gloucester were David Jones, Maurice Sutton and Meadows, Gordon Hudson adding a penalty goal. Webb scored all the Welsh points with a penalty goal and a try.