

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1953

GLO'STER'S ARTISTRY MARRED BY POOR FINISHING

If any Blackheath supporters in London had heard the half-time score at Kingsholm, they might have pictured the "Club" engaged in a hard-fought duel with Gloucester – and little to choose between the teams.

Yet what a false complexion that 3–3 put on the game. Even the score at the final whistle, when Gloucester ran out winners 11pts.–3 flattered Blackheath.

For if the home side had held half the passes that went astray the result might have read something like the lunch-time score at Lords. A great pity, for we were given a good sight of the ball from the kick off and many of the movements were a delight to watch.

If the finishing had been of the same high standard, Gloucester would have given the ideal "au revoir" to their supporters in their last Saturday home game of the season.

BREATH-TAKING RUNS

Despite the disappointments, there was plenty over which to enthuse. John Taylor's breath-taking runs had the crowd on their toes.

And so helpless were the Blackheath defenders to stop him on occasions that they might almost have been standing by to add their own applause.

Howard Terrington, too, had one of his best matches of the season. Back in his old position at outside-half he made several strong bursts down the centre and gave his backs a plentiful supply of the ball.

Centres Roy Sutton and Michael Baker added to the picture with their own artistic touches, and John Hobbs got through much hard work at scrum-half.

In the sturdy, yet fiery Gloucester pack John Gwilliam and Henry Wells were towers of strength, and they received ample backing from Hodge, Hastings and Ford.

FINE HOOKING

But perhaps the most encouraging feature was the hooking of Mervyn Burford.

A vastly improved player, he completely monopolised the set scrums, particularly in the later stages, when Gloucester did everything but score until Sutton notched his second try, which Baker converted.

Hodge scored the other try, and B. G. Taylor crossed for Blackheath.

It was a fine open game that Gloucester should have won by their biggest margin of the season.

THEY HAD NO ANSWER TO UNITED

Gloucester Utd. were far too good for Chepstow whom they defeated 26pts.-6.

Despite the superiority of the visitors, the game was by no means one-sided or dull.

Chepstow never gave up trying, but they were up against a virile and finished combination.

United's backs gave an exemplary exhibition of running and passing.

Most of the tries were scored from breakaways and sweeping passing movements to which Chepstow had no answer.

United controlled most of the scrummages, whilst the backs were a lively and often irresistible combination. W. Smith was an immaculate full-back.

Tries for Gloucester were scored by Sutton (3), Beamish, Cartmell and Hudson, and Smith made four conversions.

For Chepstow, Pinchin dropped a goal and John kicked a penalty goal.

It was the United's 25th win of the season.

JC