

THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1953

HARDLY ANYTHING WENT RIGHT FOR GLO'STER AT BATH

Gloucester began their match at Bath last night on the wrong foot. With six enforced changes, the team were held up in a traffic jam, and they did not kick-off until 7.5 p.m. – 20 minutes late.

Some of the players half-changed on the road. It was not an auspicious beginning before one of Bath's biggest crowds of the season.

Yet they led off in a way that suggested they might break the run of defeats which has dogged their footsteps on the Recreation Ground since 1947.

They seemed to have the potential in the openings created by the elusive Terrington, the thrustful striding of Baker in the centre, and the mastery of Turner over Owen on the right wing. But once Addenbrooke, the former Clifton and Swansea wing three-quarter, gave Bath the lead in the 16th minute there was no looking back for the winners.

ROSE TO THE OCCASION

They appeared to have the will to win and rose above themselves as they so often do when Gloucester are their visitors.

For all that, their first half lead was but slender and when Gloucester hit back really hard after the interval, a score for the visitors would have made a vast difference and might have led to a complete alteration in the result.

While everything came off for Bath, hardly anything went right for Gloucester, for whom both Terrington and Baker only just failed to score.

Where Gloucester were really beaten was in the set scrums. Hill, veteran Bath hooker, who is always threatening to retire played one of the best games of his long career.

Bath forwards indeed have not shaped better. Dingle excelled in the lines out so much so that Welsh cap Gwilliam congratulated him afterwards – a nice gesture.

Other Bath tries were by Alec Lewis and Addenbrooke, the last being converted by Fearis.

No-one could begrudge Bath victory. They had not performed better for months.

NOT ENOUGH OF BALL

Gloucester never got properly into their stride or they might have been devastating.

The backs, who were faster and stronger as a line, did not have nearly enough of the ball to show what they really can do.

Still, they might have handled with more certainty on a perfect evening.

Hodge and Gwilliam tried hard to pull the fat out of the fire, but it was too much for them.

ALL 24 FIT FOR GLO'STER TOUR

All 24 players selected to travel with Gloucester Rugby Club for the annual South-Western tour reported themselves available today.

H. Terrington and J. Gwilliam will, however, have to return after tomorrow's game with Devonport Services.

Gloucester's last visit to the Rectory ground, Plymouth, was in 1950-51 season when the Services won by 12 pts. to nil, their only success against the Reds and Whites since the war.

Gloucester took revenge at Kingsholm last season, winning handsomely 32 pts. to 8.

Gloucester's South-Western tour at the end of last season was a memorable one for the fact that they won all three matches and created an all-time record of 30 wins in a season – Exeter, Penzance and Teignmouth being beaten in a row.

Gloucester meet Devonport Services tomorrow, Penzance on Monday and Teignmouth on Tuesday.

JC