

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1983

GLO'STER HIT BY A WHITE TORNADO

SWANSEA 46 Pts., GLOUCESTER 16

Gloucester were swept aside by Swansea's first-half storm – an impressive assault as effective and ferocious as the gale which blasted the Welsh city the previous night.

They had come to St. Helens intent on wiping away some of last season's dismal memories with a convincing performance but their ambitions lay in tatters by half-time as the All Whites raced 30 points clear.

Swansea, easily the best team in Wales last season, gave an early pointer that they will once again be the team to beat.

Their back division hit a September fluency that most clubs would be hard pushed to match and the class and pace of David Richards, Malcolm Dacey, Mark Wyatt and Tony Swift proved too much too often for the beleaguered Gloucester defence.

Despite the nine tries conceded Gloucester's performance differed in several important respects from some of the drubbings received last season when they folded-up against some moderate opposition.

On Saturday they stuck doggedly to their task although coming off second best in all phases.

They still had enough spirit and determination to finish with three late tries – some consolation for their unrewarded persistence earlier in the game.

Facing a bitter wind in the first-half Gloucester's task was to restrict Swansea's lead to manageable proportions. This, they obviously failed to do, as Swansea ran riot with a 30 point lead at the interval.

Gloucester had frequently made life hard for themselves with missed touch kicks and poor handling.

Swansea's victory was already well assured when some neat runs from scrum-half Baker brought reward with tries from Gadd, Price, and Mogg.

Spencer, Orwin and Mills stuck to their tasks well in the pack despite overwhelming odds.

Gloucester had no excuses for their defeat – they simply came up against a side hitting an exciting, early peak in their form.

Swansea: Tries: Swift (2), H. Davies (2), Emyr, Herdman, Wyatt, Hopkins, Roberts. Con.: Wyatt (2). Pen.: Wyatt. Drop-goal: Dacey.

Gloucester: Tries: Price, Gadd, Mogg. Con.: Smith (2).

Man of the Match : John Orwin . . . stuck to his task.

HAT-TRICK DEBUT FOR MORGAN.

Gloucester Utd. 29 Pts., Broughton Park A 12 Pts.

UNITED opened their season with a good home win over Broughton Park at Kingsholm and for winger Derek Morgan there was a hat-trick of tries on his club debut.

In the first-half, with the strong wind at their backs, United struggled and were unable to win sufficient ball with which to launch their attacks.

Props Malcolm Preedy and Bob Phillips foraged to good effect and scrum-half Marcus Hannaford created a good impression with a sound display.

Full-back Paul Ford put Gloucester ahead with a penalty and then Hannaford put Morgan in for his first try which Ford converted.

Broughton Park came back with a penalty but United forged further ahead when Morgan split the defence with a wonderful break from half-way to score a fine try. Ford converted to give United a 15-3 half-time lead.

United scored further tries from Paul Wood, Cormack O'Donoghue and Morgan again, with Ford converting one.

Man-of-the-Match: Derek Morgan . . . hat-trick of tries.

JC