

THE CITIZEN

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THE PACK CARRIES THE CAN

The spirit in the Gloucester team is still high despite the 46-16 thrashing handed out by Swansea on Saturday, says captain Gordon Sargent.

Reflecting on the heavy defeat, Sargent said today that much of the blame for their poor showing at St. Helens rested with the experienced players in the front-five.

"But we had a chat in the dressing room after the match, talked things through and everyone was pleased with the attitude if not the way we played.

"We never gave up trying, but to pull back 30 points against a side as good as that was never on," he added.

Gloucester's problems stemmed from a lack of clean possession and Sargent said the tight forwards did not do as well as they should have.

"We have four experienced players there, including myself, and we did not supply the backs with controlled possession. Swansea did and this enabled their back-row to control matters."

"Our backs were always under pressure where they had time and confidence to run."

The all-round performance of the Swansea team was highly impressive with the class of their backs a telling factor.

"We would have struggled even if we had played to our best as they were a very, very good side. I would have settled for 20 points playing into the wind, but once they had rattled up 30, they had the confidence."

Gloucester face Coventry at Kingsholm on Saturday in what promises to be another tough fixture.

Coventry beat Newport on Saturday and Sargent said: "If we can beat Coventry, which I am sure we can, last week's result will be forgotten."

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