

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1983

## GLOUCESTER BACK ON COURSE

GLOUCESTER 19 POINTS, COVENTRY 14 POINTS

A large shot of vitally needed confidence was what Gloucester gained from this entertaining clash at Kingsholm.

Last season, Gloucester's triumphs over the top-flight clubs were few and far between. And following the drubbing at Swansea, a good victory was necessary to restore faith.

This they achieved in some style and the margin of victory could have been greater, but for some relaxation in defence and occasional handling lapses, predictably in attack.

At Swansea, Gloucester's experienced front five took the blame for failing to provide a vital platform of controlled possession.

But on Saturday, no criticism could be levelled at the pack as they dominated in most phases against a well organised Coventry eight.

In the line-outs, John Brain, particularly in the first-half and John Orwin, were in charge, giving a tidy service.

Gloucester's back-row trio played with plenty of drive and determination and looked a well balanced combination.

The scavenging of Gadd, the attacking ability of Longstaff and the all-round enthusiasm of Spencer ensured this vital element in Gloucester's style was working efficiently.

Scrum-half Baker revelled in the time and space the forwards provided and his confidence, along with the team generally, grew as the game wore on.

"The way we played was very encouraging particularly in the first-half when the forwards were really going well," Baker the club's vice-captain commented.

"Beating Coventry should give us plenty of confidence. Last week, our heads did not drop and we kept trying against Swansea and that spirit came out again today," Baker added.

Captain Gordon Sargent was pretty satisfied with the result against a side who showed plenty of resilience – a quality which made them one of England's top sides last season.

Richard Mogg, looking pretty comfortable at centre, scored two tries – one the result of new winger Derek Morgan's tenacity, the other a typical piece of Mogg flair.

Full-back Tim Smith finished with 11 points, including a fine try which owed much to sustained pressure from the Gloucester forwards and a neat break from outside-half Hamlin.

Gloucester: Tries : Mogg (2), Smith; Con.: Smith (2), Pen.: Smith.

Coventry: Tries : Cooke, Summers, Fleetwood; Con: Thomas.

Man of the Match : John Brain . . . for providing secure line-out possession and a lively display in the loose.