

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1983

CORNISH CREAM WHIPPED

GLOUCESTER 50 Pts., LAUNCSTON NIL

Gloucester rattled up the expected big win in last night's South-West Merit Table match at Kingsholm.

They scored nine tries in a relaxed romp against a team who were left gasping at the gulf between the first-class game and their more modest standard.

Gloucester were much stronger in the forwards battle while their backs looked a yard or two quicker in attack.

However, Gloucester should and could have won by a much bigger margin. Time after time dropped passes spoilt promising attacks and penalties and forward passes frequently punctuated their game.

The wet weather made things difficult, but Gloucester should have been a little more clinical in their finishing.

SATISFIED

They will be reasonably satisfied with their 50 points – a healthy state of affairs in the South West Merit Table and their bid to qualify for next season's John Player Cup.

Only four players managed to get on the score sheet. Derrick Morgan scored four tries in the second-half and generally added to the favourable reports he has gained in a hectic start to the season.

Full-back Tim Smith, always keen to join the line with well-timed and penetrative bursts, finished with 18 points, despite some second-half kicking lapses and there were two tries apiece for Paul Tunstall and Mike Teague.

John Fidler, a late replacement for the injured John Orwin and John Brain dominated the line-out while the scrummages were tilted heavily in Gloucester's favour.

Launceston were hammered by the loss of their first-choice loose-head prop and the 18-year-old who stepped in will have learnt from his torrid experience at the hands of Blakeway.

In the loose exchanges, Launceston stuck to their task, but were constantly beaten to the ball by the home back-row, with David Spencer particularly prominent.

Centres Mogg and Taylor found plenty of space in which to work, but one has to wonder whether they would have had so much space against sterner opposition.

Sterner stuff is what Gloucester face in the next four matches with Pontypridd, Cardiff, Bristol and Llanelli on the immediate horizon.

Gloucester: Tries; Morgan (4), Tunstall (2), Teague (2), T. Smith.
Cons.: Smith (4). Pens.: Smith (2).

Man of the Match : Dave Spencer . . . for an aggressive display in the loose.