

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1983

KINGSHOLM CONFIDENCE RESTORED

GLOUCESTER 24 Pts., PONTYPRIDD 12 Pts.

Gloucester face Cardiff on Wednesday with much of the enthusiasm and confidence restored after their fourth win of the season.

The spirit and drive of the side – a vital part of their record breaking 1981-82 season, but so lacking in the last campaign – was clearly evident in Saturday's gruelling clash.

The commitment enabled them to overcome some sticky second half patches when Pontypridd were threatening to take charge.

No-one at Kingsholm is expecting Wednesday's big game to be anything other than extremely tough.

But if Gloucester can repeat the form of the first 35 minutes of Saturday's game, they will give the Welshmen something to think about.

Gloucester went off at a cracking pace playing some of the most open and exciting rugby they have displayed for some time.

The midfield trio of Hamlin, Taylor and Mogg played with zest and confidence and frequently made telling breaks.

Full-back Tim Smith's willingness to counter from his own half maintained the momentum and, but for the final pass or a penalty in a promising position, Gloucester's enterprise would have been better rewarded.

They scored two fine tries in the opening salvo – the sturdy Mogg capping the good work of Hamlin and Taylor, and Teague finishing off a classic back row try after Baker and Spencer had laid the basis.

After such a bright opening, Gloucester's rather lacklustre second half display was particularly disappointing.

Captain Gordon Sargent commented: "I was very pleased with the first half hour or so, but the rest of the game was not so good from our point of view."

Gloucester's dominance in the line-out was spoilt by the niggling tactics of the Pontypridd pack.

And with a little more possession the Welshmen mounted several attacks from a long way out which briefly threatened.

Some of the second-half forward exchanges bordered on the ugly, and Gloucester kept out of reach with three Smith penalties.

#### GRAFTED

Orwin and Fidler – still enjoying his rugby at the age of 36 – grafted away although understandably the fourth game in a week took its toll on Fidler in the second half.

The Gloucester back row were in uncompromising form and the all-international front-row proved there is no substitute for experience in these tough Anglo-Welsh clashes.

Gloucester: Tries: Mogg, Teague; Cons.: Smith (2); Pens.: Smith (4).

Pontypridd: Try: Casey. Con.: Chilcot. Pens.: Chilcot (2).

The attendance at Saturday's Gloucester v. Pontypridd game was 3,200.