

# THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1983

## GLO'STER IN A THRILLER

GLOUCESTER 10 Pts., CARDIFF 26

Gloucester were forced to bow to Cardiff's superiority in the closing stages of a rousing game at Kingsholm last night but for most of the match they had given the Welshmen a tremendous fight.

Two late tries gave the score a flattering advantage to Cardiff and for most of the game, Gloucester were in with a great chance of pulling off a win.

However, a couple of goal kicks went astray at a vital stage and Cardiff enhanced their reputation as strong finishers with a decisive scoring burst.

Despite the defeat, there was much satisfaction for Gloucester. They were not overawed and stuck bravely to their task throughout the game.

They matched Cardiff in the forward battle, but behind the scrum Gloucester were hard pressed to equal the clean efficiency of Cardiff's handling.

There was nothing spectacular about Cardiff's approach but they did the basics well and the effective drawing of the man and transfer of the ball certainly made two tries score by winger Adrian Hadley.

Gareth Davies, the former Welsh International outside-half, was another important factor in Cardiff's victory.

His line kicking was accurate and productive and he chipped in with 14 points, including the last killer try.

Gloucester had their chances. Gordon Sargent might well have scored, but for a desperate tackle on the line, Nick Price was unlucky on a couple of occasions with the bounce and Tim Smith saw penalties cannon back off the crossbar and an upright.

No-one tried harder in Gloucester's cause than lock John Orwin. His powerful grafting and driving play was at the base of Gloucester's sturdy forward effort.

After losing ground in the first scrummage of the game, Gloucester did more than hold their own in that phase while veteran John Fidler did useful line-out work. Bob Phillips, a late replacement for Phil Blakeway, let no-one down with a wholehearted performance.

Centres Richard Mogg and Paul Taylor were the pick of the Gloucester backs, Mogg for his strength and solid tackling and Taylor for confident running and sure handling.

By and large, Gloucester's back division still lacks experience and this showed at times last night.

Cardiff led 10-6 at half-time with tries from Hadley and Preece with Smith kicking two penalties in reply.

#### CHARGE

Davies stretched the lead with a penalty seven minutes into the second half, but Gloucester responded with an exciting and dramatic try scored from their own half.

Teague made the initial charge from the 22, Orwin made storming ground down the middle, and winger Morgan made more progress down the right.

Mogg made sure of possession at the breakdown which took place on the Cardiff 22 and Price went over after good work by Taylor.

For a 10 minute period, it seemed Gloucester could grasp victory, but Cardiff sealed matters with their late surge.

### CARDIFF TALK ON FIXTURES

The Cardiff committee is to discuss the possibility of resuming fixtures with Gloucester on a permanent basis.

Cardiff club secretary Alan Priday said today that last night's match and fixtures would be talked about at a future meeting.

Regular fixtures between the clubs ended in 1979 and last night's match was arranged to celebrate the opening of Gloucester's new club development.

"It is a little early to say whether fixtures will be resumed but it will be discussed," said Mr. Priday.

"Relationships between the clubs are excellent," he added.