

THE CITIZEN

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1983

GLO'STER PILE ON PRESSURE, BUT . . .

LLANELLI SALVAGE A DRAW

GLOUCESTER 7 Pts., LLANELLI 7 Pts.

Just like Charlie Magri, at Wembley, Gloucester could not deliver the knockout punch to Llanelli – and had to settle for a draw at Kingsholm last night.

At half-time, the Scarlets were reeling on the ropes, having been pinned back in their own territory for most of the 40 minutes.

But Gloucester were only leading 3-0 at half-time having failed to turn substantial pressure into points.

And in the second half, their organised control fell away and at times they were hard pressed to contain a lively Llanelli back division.

With eight minutes left, they had a golden opportunity to clinch the game, but Tim Smith missed a straightforward penalty and the chance was lost.

FOUNDATIONS

Gloucester's forwards laid the foundations in the first half, having the edge in scrummage and line-out.

The accurate kicking of Mike Hamlin and Steve Baker kept up the pressure and in the opening period Llanelli were rarely seen in an attacking role.

Gloucester's approach, however, was cautious rather than adventurous and all they had to show for their pressure was a Smith penalty.

Gadd with a thrilling touch-line break came closest to creating a try, but by and large, the sound defence of Llanelli mopped up any danger.

The same cannot be said of Gloucester in a period just after half-time. The initiative swung to the Scarlets and Gloucester's concentration wavered.

CLASSY

The tackling was ineffective as the classy half-back combination of Gary Pearce and Mark Douglas exerted their influence on the game.

A Pearce penalty levelled things and then Douglas created a try for winger David Nicholas, exposing some rather weak Gloucester defence.

Gloucester responded immediately with a try from a line-out close in, scored by the hard-working Spencer.

Gloucester's supply of possession was nothing like as assured in the second half although they overcame an unnerving period to finish slightly the stronger.

To their credit, they tried to run the ball, but lacked the necessary penetration to breach the defence, despite some characteristically powerful running from Richard Mogg.

The front-row performed creditably in the tight and the back-row again showed fierce determination and cohesion.

Gloucester's performance was patchy although a draw with the famous Llanelli is nothing to be disappointed with.

In the second half, particularly, Gloucester may well have found their recent heavy and demanding programme taking its toll.

Gloucester: Try, Spencer; Pen. Smith.

Llanelli: Try, Nicholas; Pen. Pearce.

Man of the Match : Richard Mogg; strong running and sound defence.

JC