

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1983

GLOUCESTER SLIDE DOWNHILL

BEDFORD 14 Pts., GLOUCESTER 6

Gloucester's gamble on a shadow squad failed miserably in a chapter of misfortunes at Bedford's damp and dismal Goldington-rd. ground.

They were outgunned by the home pack and rarely played with any cohesion or rhythm in their worst display of the season.

They might well have felt it was not to be their day before they had even reached Bedford itself.

Traffic chaos following a coach crash on the outskirts of the town meant they arrived just 25 minutes before the kick-off, barely enough time to prepare properly.

For most of the first-half, the bodies were on the field but, not surprisingly, the minds were still in the changing rooms.

Unfortunately, Gloucester had lost the toss and were given the first use of the considerable slope on the ground. With the team showing 10 changes from the Llanelli game taking a long time to settle, they could not use it to the best advantage.

## MISERABLE

Gloucester had a miserable time in the line-outs – the cornerstone of much of their success this season – and the scrummages where Phil Blakeway consistently fell foul of Warwickshire referee Tony Gibbs.

Mr Gibbs somewhat controversially denied Gloucester a score four minutes from time – possibly too late to make any difference to the result, but it would certainly have given an interesting climax to the match.

In the best rugby of the afternoon, Cormack O'Donoghue ripped through the centre, Richard Mogg charged on and Ian Smith managed to find winger Derrick Morgan who looked to have scored near the posts.

Mr. Gibbs ruled that the final pass from Smith was forward, but after the game the Gloucester flanker was adamant that his scoring pass had been backwards.

Morgan had scored Gloucester's try after 23 minutes thanks to great work from Nick Price and Richard Mogg, and outside half Paul Webb converted for a 6-3 half-time lead.

#### CONTROLLED

Denied a solid forward platform, Gloucester were rarely in the hunt after the break. Bedford used their back-row to telling effect and scrum-half Ian Peck rarely let the ball go out, content instead to play a tight and controlled game.

Gloucester can thank the ineptitude of Bedford's normally reliable outside-half Simon Smith that the defeat was not greater. He kicked two penalties but missed eight other kicks – most of them pretty straight-forward.

Equally out of luck was Mogg when Bedford scored their second try 13 minutes from time. His attempted clearance was sliced, flew backwards and wide, and bounced gratefully into the arms of Bedford number eight Richard Eales, who went over unopposed.

Gloucester generally made heavy weather of clearing their lines and new full-back Mike Wilkinson's debut had a miserable end when he was led from the field with a face injury in the closing moments.

Flankers Paul Wood and Smith worked hard in defeat for Gloucester and both used their pace to good effect on more than one occasion.

Steve Baker, leading the side, coped admirably with some poor possession, and was a steadying influence on a pack who found things very frustrating.

"This defeat is nothing really to worry about for Gloucester. They rested players, fielded a largely untried team and on this occasion, were beaten by a more organised side.

Bedford : Tries; Eales. Peck. Pens: Smith (2).  
Gloucester : Try; Morgan. Con: Webb.

Man of the Match : Ian Smith . . . good work in a pack who were struggling to find form.

#### FRONT-ROW STARS AS UNITED WIN

GLOUCESTER UTD. 19 PTS., BEDFORD WDRS. 9 PTS.

United returned to winning ways at Kingsholm but they made hard work of their task in overcoming the Wanderers.

Although the forwards won plenty of possession, the backs made too many mistakes and could not turn pressure into points.

The outstanding unit for Gloucester was the front-row of Richard Pascall, Malcolm Preedy and Glynn Mann who did splendid work.

Gloucester took the lead after 18 minutes when Roger Fowke kicked a 40 yard penalty, but Bedford edged ahead with a converted try from their winger after a poor clearance kick.

Fowke added two more penalties to restore Gloucester's lead to 9-6.

In the second-half, winger Padraig Conway and prop Pascall added tries for United. Fowler converted one.

Man of the Match : Richard Pascall . . . outstanding work in the pack.

JC