

# THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1983

## GLO'STER WIN IN WALES

ABERTILLERY 6 Pts., GLOUCESTER 9 Pts.

Gloucester achieved their first win in Wales since a victory over Pontypridd in September 1982, but it was a performance which will not linger long in the memory.

In a scrappy, untidy affair, Gloucester just about deserved their win by virtue of edging the forward exchanges and having the better of things territorially.

Abertillery scored the only try of the night – predictably from a mistake – and might feel aggrieved that they did not get the draw.

In the first half, particularly, Gloucester were badly unsettled, lacking in support play and failing frequently to find touch.

Not that Abertillery were much better and there was hardly a move of note in an exceptionally dull 40 minutes.

Gloucester led 6-0 at the interval thanks to two penalties from Tim Smith and in the second half, Gloucester asserted their superior height and strength to spend most of the half in Abertillery territory.

Dave Spencer and Mike Teague were the pick of the Gloucester forwards and they kept Gloucester on top in the loose exchanges.

The hard-working Scrivens and Fidler cleaned up in the line-out and Mike Hamlin started to hit the target with long touch-finders.

Gloucester's best rugby came in a short spell midway through the half. After showing little flair or endeavour, they clicked to send Mogg away on a typical powerful and elusive break.

He fed Price who was caught just short of the line and from the resulting five-yard scrum, Teague looked to have gone over.

However, the referee awarded another scrummage and Abertillery were penalised as Gloucester went for the push-over. Smith duly knocked over his third penalty.

Gloucester were looking set for a strong finish but as they ran the ball away from defence, Abertillery winger Steve Bainton picked up a loose ball to race clear of the defence and score.

Gloucester had considerable problems in the scrummage and were continually penalised by Swansea referee Winston Bevan for front-row infringements.

Any win in Wales is worth having, but for Gloucester this was just one of those games when the only redeeming factor was victory.

Gloucester: Pens, Smith (3).

Abertillery: Try, Bainton; Con., Clarke.