

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1983

GLO'STER ARRESTED !

GLOUCESTER 9 Pts., S. WALES POLICE 13 Pts.

Gloucester's five match unbeaten run was halted at Kingsholm last night as the well organised Police were rewarded for a dominant performance.

The home side, showing 10 changes from the side that beat Rosslyn Park on Saturday, were rarely in the hunt and subsided in tame fashion.

They lacked drive and commitment against a side who have only lost three matches this season and were always likely to maintain that record last night.

Gloucester could not secure consistent and tidy possession and the Police were able to spend most of the game deep in home territory.

Fidler had an interesting struggle in the middle of the line-out with Steve Smith, which just about finished even, but elsewhere there was nothing but scraps of possession.

The half-back pair of Wilmott and Webb were under enormous pressure and they lived dangerously in defence against a harrying back-row.

Little criticism could be levelled at the Gloucester threequarters. They had few opportunities to show their paces, apart from Gloucester's best spell just before half-time.

The Police, who had not previously beaten Gloucester for many seasons, led 6-3 at the interval. It might have been more, but for two disallowed tries and a drop-goal attempt which bounced back off an upright.

Scrum-half Phil Noble, a lively competitor at scrum-half, finally put them ahead with a move which exposed Gloucester's cover on the blindside.

Webb pulled back three points with a penalty but it was his charged down kick that allowed hooker Steve Davies to go over for a try in the second half. Winger Jeremy John kicked a penalty to make it 13-3 and Gloucester looked dead and buried.

To their credit, they bounced back immediately with a try by the hardworking Wood which briefly gave Gloucester hope.

But for the last quarter of the game it was the same old story with the Welsh forwards cleaning up possession and their half-backs keeping Gloucester in their own 25 with a series of long touch kicks.

With eight men at the South West squad session and two other first choices injured, Gloucester were always set to struggle.

After the excellent rugby of the Rosslyn Park game on Saturday, and the passion of the County Cup Final on Tuesday, last night's match was lacklustre stuff in comparison.

Gloucester, who have no game on Saturday but with representative calls biting again next week, face a local derby with Cheltenham next Wednesday.

Gloucester: Try, Wood. Con., Webb. Pen., Webb.

South Wales Police: Tries, Noble, Davies. Con., Barker. Pen. John.