

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1983

SLUGGISH GLO'STER HIT BACK

BROUGHTON PARK 24 Pts., GLOUCESTER 25 Pts.

A video recording watched by the players after the game confirmed the Gloucester camp view that this was not one of those matches to remember.

In a game remarkably similar to the midweek match with Cheltenham, but of a better quality, Gloucester fought back from behind to dominate the second half.

But unlike Cheltenham, Park did not quite fold under pressure and still had enough left to score a try near the end which made the scores closer than the play had warranted.

Gloucester made a sluggish start – due to a late arrival when the coach was lost while trying to find the ground. And they never really slipped into top gear at any stage.

OFFSIDE

The Park backs, flirting frequently with offside, were always quickly up on their Gloucester counterparts, allowing them no room to operate.

It was offside decisions which allowed Gloucester to claw back from a 15-6 deficit at half-time as Paul Webb banged over three second-half penalties to add to his two first-half efforts.

Derrick Morgan raced over for two well worked tries in the right-hand corner and these were just reward for Gloucester's persistence and pressure.

Park managed two identical tries as well, both credited to number eight John Ingram. Twice the Gloucester scrummage was wheeled close to their own line, the weight advantage of the Gloucester pack was taken away from the ball and Ingram was able to score.

Commented captain Gordon Sargent: "We did not expect to be wheeled on our opponents' put-in. It is obviously a set move which they use. It's very effective and difficult to counter.

"For Broughton Park it was one of their big games of the season, but for us it was a match in which we just did not get going."

NOT SCORED

Try scorer Ingram confessed while watching the video, that he had not scored when the first try was awarded. "I lost the ball as I went over," he said.

Gloucester played some reasonable rugby and attempted to spin the ball whenever possible. However mistakes, particularly in the first-half, plagued their game.

Webb, as well as kicking 17 points, had a pretty useful game at outside-half. Although struggling to forge an effective partnership with scrum-half Wilmott, he grew in confidence as the game went on.

In the first-half, Gloucester's tactical kicking was returned with interest by the accomplished Kevin O'Brien, the Park full-back.

But in the second-half, Webb began to find the gaps behind the defence and Gloucester were able to turn the screw.

Mike Teague showed once again how unlucky he is to be kept out of the county team. He was the pick of the Gloucester forwards in broken play and his line-out work was excellent.

Phillips and White worked hard in the loose while Fidler and Orwin carried too much top-line experience for their opponents.

Broughton Park: Tries; Ingram (2), Cons; O'Brien (2). Pens; O'Brien (4). Gloucester: Tries; Morgan (2), Con; Webb, Pens; Webb (5).

Man of the Match: Mike Teague.

UNITED'S GOOD WIN

NEWPORT HSOB 9 PTS., GLOUCESTER UTD. 13 PTS.

United made a late arrival when they travelled by cars as the team coach failed to appear.

In an uninspiring game, United were good value for their efforts and deserved to win by a bigger margin.

In the first-half, the Old Boys took a 6-3 lead with Steve Parsloe kicking a penalty for the United.

In the second-half, United were on top for most of the game and they added tries by lock Nigel Scrivens and Parsloe. Parsloe kicked one conversion.

JC