

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1983

STUDENTS TEST GLOUCESTER

GLOUCESTER 23 Pts., LOUGHBOROUGH STUDENTS 9 Pts.

Well organised Loughborough last night upset Gloucester's plans of a confident warm up for Saturday's tough task at Leicester.

They restricted below par Gloucester to a win of modest proportions in a game which rarely excited the Kingsholm crowd.

After a reasonably promising first half, the second half faded away with little incident or action to remember.

As expected, Gloucester's forwards dominated but generally the best use was not made of the possession.

After their respective performances at Kingsholm this season, one would have to say that Loughborough looked superior in most areas of the game to Oxford University. They would certainly give both of the 'Varsity sides run for their money.

They had a useful pack, with No. 8 Nigel Castleton outstanding and some composed touches at half back where outside half Dai Llewelyn and scrum-half Carl Williams were sound performers.

LIVELY

Gloucester's back row was a dominant influence. The in-form Teague and Gadd were their usual effective selves while Ian Smith had a lively game. He was always quick to the breakdown and his tackling took its toll on the Loughborough side.

Fidler reliably supplied the lineout possession while captain Sargent was heavily involved in the loose exchanges.

Scrum-half Steve Baker, back after missing five games through injury, took on the back row at every opportunity and his strong running might well have brought more reward.

Behind, Gloucester lacked punch and failed to carve out the chances their possession warranted.

Their best moments came in the first-half with three well-worked tries.

Mike Hamlin wriggled over for the first score and Nick Price added two tries on the left wing, although there was considerable doubt whether he managed to ground the ball for his second score.

Gloucester led 17-6 at half time and struggled until the last minute to add to that score. Then, with time running out, Teague caught the Loughborough defence snoozing at a lineout and went over unopposed for a try.

Gloucester: Tries – Price (2), Hamlin, Teague; Conversions, Ford (2); Penalty, Ford.

Loughborough: Penalties. Llewelyn (3).

JC