

# THE CITIZEN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1983

## LYDNEY'S GLORY

GLOUCESTER 7 Pts., LYDNEY 15 Pts.

Cock-a-hoop Lydney thoroughly deserved their rare Kingsholm triumph, which was marred only by a late outburst of fisticuffs.

Fighting broke out on Gloucester's 22 metre line a few minutes from the end with Lydney prop Alan Brooks the main victim in a scuffle involving half a dozen forwards.

Chief protagonist was Gloucester No. 8 Larry Cummins who was fortunate not to be given his marching orders by Liverpool referee David Matthews.

Gloucester had virtually a second string set of forwards on duty – a line-up which, with hindsight, the selectors must have been regretting. Some regulars were available but others, such as Dave Spencer and John Fidler, were rested and were watching the debacle with impotent gloom.

The Gloucester weaknesses up front, however, were not the only excuse for their embarrassing defeat on home soil. There was not the same spirit or will to win in the Cherry and White camp, while the score-hungry Severnsiders – sensing the chance of a Kingsholm scalp for the first time in many years – were in rampant mood.

Lydney's half back pair, Colyn Price and Paul Howell, were in great form with Price's place-kicking earning seven points while Howell's subtle artistry, both in his positional play and tactical kicking, kept up the pressure constantly.

Lydney had led throughout the game from the 10th minute when Price curled over a penalty from the 22.

Nine minutes later, from a scrum under Gloucester's posts, Howell broke away, passed long and sent Mike Howells over for a try with yards to spare. Price converted.

Gloucester full-back Tim Smith, only minutes after coming on to replace injured Paul Ford, put over a penalty to make it 9-3 to Lydney at half-time.

After the interval hooker Kevin White spearheaded Gloucester's revival hopes with a footrush that saw Richard Mogg put Derrick Morgan in for a corner try. Smith's conversion kick was narrowly wide.

It could have been the turning point a few minutes later when, in quick succession, Gloucester had two penalty awards from Lydney's 22.

But both Smith's kicks went wide and Gloucester's final chances were gone.

After the outbreak of violence, following which both captains were lectured by the referee, Lydney piled on more forward pressure and were constantly quicker to the breakdown.

Their commitment and effort was rewarded three minutes into injury time when Gloucester were awarded a penalty on their line. Mike Hamlin ran the ball out but his pass was intercepted by centre John Saville who popped over for a try which Price converted.

Man of the Match: Keith Davis: The Lydney flanker performed superbly in line-out and loose.