

THE CITIZEN

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1984

YELLOW PERIL BEATS MOSELEY

GLOUCESTER 10 Pts., MOSELEY 6 Pts.

Outlandish weather reduced rugby to a lottery at Kingsholm where the Yellows snatched a barely-deserved victory with a late penalty try against Moseley.

The Yellows ?

Yes, conditions became so bizarre yesterday that 18 minutes from time Gloucester were forced to change their familiar Cherry and White strip for yellow shirts.

It would be fanciful to think the swop brought a change in fortunes but certainly Gloucester finished strongly.

They achieved a victory based on the doggedness and perseverance of their forwards and the tenacity of centre Paul Taylor.

He was the only player from either side to cope with the treacherous conditions which made anything beyond a single pass virtually impossible.

To judge the best side would be unfair.

The forwards fought a resolute battle which suited the lighter men and gave Paul Wood the chance to impress at flanker. Mike Teague was also frequently to the fore.

The old argument on how best to take advantage of the elements is worth some discussion.

Certain coaches prefer to play first with the elements and build a lead to defend. Gloucester's Gordon Sargent, who won the toss, decided on the old fashioned approach with the wind and rain at his back in the second half.

It's a sound theory based on the fact that there is little scoring in the first quarter of any game and one has a target to attack in the second half.

In the end it worked for Sargent but he had to wait until four minutes from the end to break down Moseley's stubborn defence when the visitors deliberately fell off-side and conceded a penalty try converted by Fowke.

Moseley had taken the lead in the first half with two penalties by Perry.

But conditions had deteriorated so badly after the break – some said it was the worst they had seen at Kingsholm for years – that even the gale force wind was of little advantage.

Good work by Orwin saw Wood take the ball round the front of a line-out and Teague continue the move.

Paul Taylor produced a splendid run which took him past half a dozen would-be tacklers and Baker received the scoring pass.

Fowke could hardly be blamed for missing the conversion.

A Moseley win looked likely as they kept Gloucester at bay, but Sargent's forwards finally broke down their resistance to be awarded a penalty try.