

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 1984

TRUE GRIT IN BIG FIGHTBACK BY GLOUCESTER

LONDON SCOTTISH 24 Pts., GLOUCESTER 13 Pts.

Weakened Gloucester had no need to feel ashamed after a game second-half fightback against the dour Scots.

The combined effects of the wind, the determined Scottish attack, their own deficiencies – and the Richmond bogey – overwhelmed the Cherry and Whites before the interval.

Many sides in such adversity would have thrown in the towel – but Gloucester's largely reserve team revived itself admirably at the break and hit back immediately in the second half with a try.

Winger Derrick Morgan flashed over, dodging a tackle by the talented Scots full-back Roddy Grant.

Gloucester then looked capable of whittling away the Scots big 21-0 half-time advantage, even though full-back Roger Fowke had missed two penalty kicks and the conversion.

The omens continued to brighten when place-kicking duties were handed over to Steve Parsloe. The outside-half who has recently rejoined Gloucester from Stroud landed penalties in the 6th and 11th minute of the second-half and for a spell it looked as though Gloucester could at last stamp some authority on the forward exchanges and overtake the Scots.

In the lines-out John Brain and Steve Boyle had the edge over veteran Alistair McHarg and Jerry Campbell-Lamerton while John Orwin, at number 8, seemed to enjoy the change of position.

But without the strength of Gloucester's first choice front three in the scrums and tight, the Cherry and Whites began to be pushed off the ball as the half wore on.

The Scots never gained a clear scrummaging advantage – indeed strikes against the head were equal at one apiece – but they did enough to disrupt Gloucester's game and with a penalty to help restore their lead they looked unlikely to give way in the final quarter when Gloucester's best work was over.

Parsloe landed a third penalty for Gloucester 10 minutes from the end to earn a 100 per cent place kicking tally, but neither he nor the rest of Gloucester's backs ever showed enough pace to add another try to Morgan's.

At the end Gloucester were tired and struggling and lost John Orwin with a back injury in the final minute.

So the Scots recorded another home win against Gloucester, thanks to their first-half tries by Grant and flanker Alistair Morrison and four penalties and two conversions from outside-half Tony Mitchell.

It was a deserved victory for they made more of the wind advantage and were able to emphasise their superiority with Mitchell's almost flawless kicking.

London Scottish: Tries – Grant, Morrison. Cons. – Mitchell (2); Pens. – Mitchell (4).

Gloucester: Try – Morgan; Pens. – Parsloe (3).

Man of the Match: Tony Mitchell, who kept Gloucester out of the game with 16 points from seven kicks.