

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1954

## GLO'STER'S FORM LOOKS PROMISING

First visitors of the season at Kingsholm, Lydney, found themselves up against a well co-ordinated Gloucester team who soon demonstrated that the Red and Whites had no intention of starting the rugby year with anything less than victory.

And gamely though Lydney struggled – their pack putting up a particularly tough fight in the loose – there was never any real doubt as to who the winners would be.

Considering that it was Gloucester's first match and that the wet state of the ball did not make for good handling, especially in the second half, the Red and Whites' form was encouraging.

They showed good teamwork and their readiness to open up the game was a healthy sign for the future.

## PARTNERSHIP

Gloucester's pack generally held the upper hand in both set scrums and lineouts, and nearly all the worthwhile back play that took place came from the home team.

The half-back partnership between John Hobbs and David Jones, worked well, on the whole, and Jones's lightning swerves and sidesteps often had the Lydney defence in difficulties.

Gloucester's centres, Michael Baker and Roy Sutton, showed thrust, but there was room for improvement in the threequarter line's finishing. Roy Blair on the left wing had little chance to show what he could do.

Lydney's back division – with far fewer opportunities than their Gloucester counterparts – seldom looked really dangerous, though outside-half Brian Kear worked hard to try and carve out openings.

One or two stout efforts also came from A. Jones on the right wing.

### BEST IN LOOSE

It was in the loose forward play that Lydney came nearest to holding their own.

In fact there were times when the visitors' lively pack had the sound Gloucester defence fully extended.

T. Jones, T. Biddle and S. Betterton were among the best of the Lydney eight.

Gloucester's pack were well led by the club's new skipper George Hastings, and Peter Hosea, playing his first game for the Red and Whites, made a favourable impression in the second row.

Both full-backs, Bill Smith for Gloucester and B. Weston for Lydney, gave a good account of themselves.

### IN FIRST HALF

All of Gloucester's 11 points were scored in the first half.

Michael Baker got the first points of the season when he landed a very nice wide-angle drop goal after fielding a Lydney penalty kick.

The lead was increased not long afterwards through a try scored by wing threequarter R. Amos, which rounded off a sparkling movement by Gloucester's backs.

Lydney counter-attacked but were unable to score and, almost on half-time, quick following up by Dennis Ibbotson enabled him to get Gloucester's second try. Baker added the goal points with a grand kick.

JC