

THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1954

GLOUCESTER SCRAPE THROUGH IN GRIM 'DERBY'

GLOUCESTER 5 Pts., CHELTENHAM 3 Pts.

If the term "local derby" conjures up a picture in the mind of a grim and unyielding struggle then last night's encounter at Kingsholm – where Gloucester beat Cheltenham by a goal to a try – certainly lived up to this conception. It was not a very interesting game and it did very little to enhance Gloucester's reputation.

Cheltenham should gain from it the knowledge that they are now a team to be reckoned with. They have been improving steadily during recent seasons and last night's showing should add greatly to their morale.

Last week the Town took a 26 points–14 beating from a strong Llanelly team and on last night's performance the spectator cannot have a great deal of confidence in the Red and White's ability to topple the Welsh "giants."

Last night's game was one of those in which it is difficult to say that a victory or a defeat was earned or deserved.

Both teams had made changes, Gloucester being without Baker and Blair in the threes – their places were taken by Don Hill and Derek Morgan – and Cheltenham substituting M. Foreman for H. A. Wright at left centre and H. Parry for A. J. Herbert in the forwards.

CAPTAIN'S TRY

In addition, the visitors were without D. G. Pratten, who was injured, for the greater part of the second half.

Incidentally, Michael Baker is suffering from a poisoned foot.

For the game, there is not much that can be said. It did not come as a great surprise when, early in the first half, the visiting captain, G. R. d'A. Hosking gave Cheltenham the lead with an unconverted try wide out following a lot of scrambling near the line.

Cheltenham clung to this lead until half-time although Gloucester had missed two good penalty shots by Trevor Jones and Hastings.

Gloucester took the lead early in the second half and held on to it till the end.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Outside-half David Jones, who was the man of the match, went through on his own but was tackled just in front of the posts. He managed to get the ball again, saw an opening and went through for a nice try which Trevor Jones had little difficulty in converting.

Neither team had the measure of the other in any department. The Gloucester threes, missing Blair and Baker, were kept well in check by their opposite numbers and the line-outs broke about even.

In the scrums "Bumps" Carpenter appeared to get the ball more times for Cheltenham than Cyril Thomas did for Gloucester. Both sides accrued an unnecessary number of penalties for "feet up."

There was a remarkable lack of good tackling, the "come here Sweetie and we'll go down together" type of tackle being far too evident.

ADEQUATE

Making his first appearance for the premier side this season, Trevor Jones was just about adequate at full-back but never really impressive.

In the forwards Parry, Wells and Hodge worked hard in the loose but other players who usually excel at this type of work were noticeably subdued.

On the whole, a not-very-pleasing display by the home side, which was of course, handicapped by the absence of so many "regulars."

Gloucester: T. Jones; R. Amos, R. Sutton, D. Hill, D. Morgan; D. Jones, J. Hobbs; G. Hastings (capt.), C. Thomas, R. Parry, H. Wells, P. Hosea, P. Ford, R. Hodge, D. Ibbotson.

Cheltenham: D. Harvey; J. Mullins, C. G. Woodruffe, M. Foreman, R. Beamish; J. E. Place, L. Phelps; E. Adams, A. D. Carpenter, A. Townsend, G. R. d'A. Hosking, R. S. Shrubbs, D. A. Howarth (capt.), D. G. Pratten, N. Parry.

Referee: Mr. Ivor David (Wales).

JC