

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1954

USKSIDERS TOO CLEVER FOR GLOUCESTER

Newport, on their own side of the Black Bridge, once again proved too tough an obstacle for Gloucester.

The Red and Whites' latest visit to Rodney Parade ended in a convincing win for the Usksiders by 16 points to nil.

It was by no means an inglorious defeat for Gloucester. They never gave up the struggle and the forwards, in particular, made a great fight of it.

But the Red and Whites could provide nothing comparable to the speed and cleverness of Newport's back division – a factor which weighted the scales heavily in the home team's favour.

KEPT IT OPEN

Considering that the ground was thoroughly soaked and that the slippery conditions were not conducive to good open play, the Newport outsiders handled and manoeuvred surprisingly well.

They rarely sought to close up the game, and frequent changes of tactics often had the plucky Gloucester defence fully extended.

Newport's wily and dangerous half-backs, D. O. Brace and Roy Burnett, were both in form, and whenever the ball reached the wing men – speed merchants Ken Jones and John Lane – Gloucester really had to look out !

It was a game in which Newport had more opportunities of mounting attacks than Gloucester due to a superiority in the tight and in the lineouts.

FOOTRUSHES

The Red and Whites usually looked more dangerous with the ball at their feet.

Strong footrushes by their forwards – with Thomas, Hodge, Wells and Ford always in the forefront – gave Newport a lot of trouble at times.

There were some stout efforts by half backs John Hobbs and David Jones – the latter showing up well in attack and defence – but the Gloucester back division as a whole seldom looked capable of getting a score.

One of Gloucester's best attacking movements ended in Roy Blair – who had very few opportunities – flying down the left touchline with a good run which might have achieved something had he been marked by a less formidable opponent than Ken Jones.

Though sometimes beaten by the slippery ball, Trevor Jones served Gloucester well at full back.

WONDERFUL TRY

High-spot of the match was the marvellous try scored in the first half by Newport's Ken Jones.

With practically the whole Gloucester side to beat, the famous Welsh international raced through from nearly half-way with one of the best runs he has ever produced.

Newport's other tries were scored by right centre J. Roblin and front row forward G. Price.

Full back Garfield Owen converted two tries and kicked a penalty goal.

UNITED BACK DIVISION WAS POOR

Victory by a penalty goal is never a very gratifying success and the only satisfaction that Newport United can have gained from their 3pts.-nil victory over Gloucester United at Kingsholm is that they were very lucky.

A draw would have been the fairest result to this unspectacular but fairly good exhibition of rugby.

The one weak spot in two well-matched teams lay in the Gloucester threequarter line which failed to produce one single likely-looking move in the whole match.

Matched against a powerful bunch of Welshmen the Gloucester forwards acquitted themselves with honour.

No sooner would one be tempted to say: "Newport appeared to be getting the better of the set scrums and line-outs" than the home forwards would completely destroy the illusion by getting the ball a number of times in succession – only to see all their efforts wasted away by the threequarters.

After stating the shortcomings of the threequarters it appears to be almost contradictory to say that one of Gloucester's outstanding performers was left centre D. Morgan.

Of this, however, there is little doubt. It was Morgan's tackling in particular, which singled him out and one of the highlights of the game was the way in which he bundled right winger Ross, ball and corner flag into touch to save an almost certain try.

At full back Brian Sibery saved Gloucester's bacon on several occasions. He showed plenty of guts but his kicking was often not powerful or accurate enough.

Seventeen-year-old P. Meadows made a useful debut at scrum half, and outside half Doug. Perks showed some bright flashes.

Without exception full honours went to the forwards.

Newport could count themselves lucky to have snatched victory with a first half penalty.

JC