

## THE CITIZEN

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1954**

### WILLIAMS' INJURY PROVED TRAGIC

Viewed in the cold light of a double figure defeat, with Gloucester only just topping half their opponents' score, the Moseley game at The Reddings was an inglorious affair.

In fact, it was far from being that.

The score of 3 goals, 2 tries (21 points) to a goal, a drop goal and a try (11 points) does little more than indicate what happened in the last quarter of the game – the period when Gloucester were reduced to 14 by the tragic loss of Williams with a broken leg.

Tragic because it came just when Gloucester had reached the peak of their game to introduce an unsettling effect from which they never really recovered. But for this Gloucester had a good chance of winning.

To begin with, Gloucester were slow in settling down. Consequently, when Terrington's snap drop-goal came quite late in the first half, Moseley were already 8pts. up.

### TURNING POINT

But that success by Terrington, who throughout formed a nimble combination with scrum half Hobbs, was a turning point.

The onslaught on the Moseley line from then on was tremendous, and both Williams and Hobbs went over, but on each occasion the referee brought them back.

Now – though the Moseley threes always possessed a neat liveliness which was ever a danger when the opportunity presented itself – Gloucester was clearly the better side.

And when Williams' splendid following-up was rewarded with a touch-down in the opening moments of the second half and Terrington levelled the scores, it really looked as though Gloucester were about to check the run of defeats which have gone on far longer than most rugby fans hereabouts care to remember.

### CRY FOR STRETCHER

Then, mid-way through the second half came the second turning point. The cry went up for a stretcher for Williams.

It proved, in effect, a stretcher for Gloucester's hopes. Within a minute Edge, Moseley's opportunist fly-half, had cut his way through the Gloucester side – unsettled once again – to touch down and kick the conversion points.

Davies added another, Curry yet another and Edge kicked two more points to make the score 21–8 – the most gloomy picture of the afternoon. Then Blair got his score with a run that was as typical as it was spectacular.

### UNITED GAME ONE TO BE FORGOTTEN

For the record book Gloucester United lost their away game to Hereford by one goal (5 points) to nil.

Perhaps it would be as well to leave it solely for the record purposes as any lengthy comments may prove invidious and could certainly not be encouraging to either side, even allowing for the elements that seemed to be determined to play their part in this disappointing display.

Heavy though they were, United's pack, without a recognised hooker, could give their backs little help from the scrums, and while Don Smith, Henry Wells, Len Pickles and Don Jones worked hard enough in the loose and line-outs their efforts were of no avail against the lively if not spectacular Hereford eight.

Despite some rough handling from the home side's wing-forwards, young Peter Meadows gave a plucky display at scrum-half, while Alec Hollingsworth was the most dangerous threequarter.

JC