

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1954

CAMBORNE GIVES COUNTY SOME CONSOLATION

Held to an 8pts.-8 draw by Somerset at Kingsholm, Gloucestershire could derive some small consolation from the thought that even had they won they would have progressed no further in the county championship.

The match which inevitably proved decisive in the struggle for South-Western group honours was played nearly 200 miles away at Camborne, where Cornwall – gaining their third victory – became undisputed champions.

At Kingsholm about 7,000 spectators – a below-average crowd for county matches at Gloucester – saw a game which had many thrilling moments and produced a higher standard of rugby than is normally expected in a "derby" of that nature.

And on the whole neither team could really complain about the result, though Gloucestershire were perhaps a shade unlucky not to bring it off.

They played the more constructive football and were responsible for nearly all the worthwhile back play that was seen. But even so the Somerset defence generally proved too good for them, with the result that the visitors' line fell only once.

DISILLUSIONED

Somerset did, in fact, spring something of a surprise. So confidently did Gloucestershire start, and so marked was their superiority in the early stages, that home supporters must have felt the game was "in the bag."

And then . . . tragedy. The stern battle between two powerful West Country packs swung for a time in Somerset's favour. It was during this middle part of the game that the Cider County succeeded in wiping off the arrears.

DAMAGE DONE

And although Gloucestershire later regained the initiative the damage was done. The home county had to be content with a draw.

Up against very formidable opposition in the Somerset front row, Gloucestershire hooker Cyril Thomas did well to win his side such a good share of the ball.

Half-backs Terry Base and David Jones opened up quite effectively, and the latter gave Somerset's defence a lot of trouble at times with clever solo runs.

Yet though Gloucestershire's threequarters often handled cleanly and ran well, that bit of extra thrust which might have shattered the determined Somerset defence was missing.

The home threes also seemed too ready to fall back on a policy of kicking, a fault from which even John Taylor – the most impressive of the quartet – was not immune.

LIVELY FORM

Somerset's backs never really settled down and seldom opened out smoothly. And some of the credit for this was due to Gloucestershire's wing forwards Dainty and Ibbotson who both showed lively form.

Gloucestershire opened the scoring when left-centre D. W. Holman swerved through a gap near Somerset's 25 and Roy Sutton also handled before second-row forward Gordon Cripps forced his way over for a try. Cripps also added the goal points and a little later scored a penalty goal.

This ended the scoring so far as Gloucestershire were concerned, and before half-time, Webber took advantage of a short punt by Tuttiett to dive over for a Somerset try which Bain converted.

In the second half Bain levelled the scores with a grand penalty goal from near the touchline.

JC