

## THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1954

### ABERAVON MIGHT HAVE SCORED MORE

Making their first appearance at Kingsholm for 27 years, Aberavon found Gloucester easier meat than most people expected.

The Wizards won by 16pts. to 3. And so convincing was their victory that Gloucester might be forgiven for hoping that they won't see their Welsh visitors again for at least another 27 years !

Although the home line was crossed only twice, there were also two or three very lucky escapes.

And had it not been for some resolute Gloucester defensive work – in which full back Brian Sibery was often outstanding – the Wizards' margin of victory would have been greater.

While Gloucester – sadly devoid of their former fire – never really settled down, Aberavon nearly always played like a side in top gear.

### FACE-SAVERS

The Red and Whites saved face, to a certain extent, through the heroic efforts of a few individual players – notably Hastings, Hodge and Ibbotson, in the pack, Blair, in the threequarter line, and Sibery.

But for the team as a whole it was a real "off-day."

Hooker Cyril Thomas, who had had a hard police match on the previous day, failed to win as much of the ball as usual, and in the loose the pack often seemed ragged and lacking in vigour compared with their lively opponents.

At outside half David Jones was nowhere near his best, and for the most part the threequarter line was too lacking in co-ordination and thrust to be very effective.

Once again the home wingers, Blair and Amos, saw comparatively little of the ball.

They both tried hard when their few opportunities did arise, and in the closing minutes Blair – who had made particularly strenuous efforts – was switched to the centre.

### MORE THOROUGH

The young Aberavon side showed an all-round liveliness and they were much more thorough and constructive in attack than Gloucester.

Good handling, intelligent passing and speedy backing-up played an important part in the Wizards' success.

Their first try – scored by Ashton after two quick handling movements had torn the Gloucester defence to ribbons – was an excellent example of this.

### GIFT TRY

Aberavon were virtually presented with their other try when a wild Gloucester pass gave the visitors the ball and Davies crossed after a neat bout of inter-passing with Collins.

Full-back Ross Richards, who served Aberavon exceedingly well, converted both tries and kicked two penalty goals.

George Hastings ran determinedly to gain Gloucester's try after a blind side movement started by Jones had put the Red and Whites on the attack.

## FATE HAD IT IN FOR UNITED

Gloucester United can seldom have been more harshly treated either by fate or by the referee than when they lost at Caerleon to Newport High School Old Boys by 2 goals (1 pen.), 1 try (11pts.) to nil.

Two opposing players were hustling for the ball shortly after the interval when the whistle blew. To the surprise of both sides the official awarded a penalty goal against United bang in front of the posts. It was easy.

This seemed to upset United who had previously shown much-improved form. But they had the wind completely taken out of their sails a little later when an even more surprising decision was given.

From a long grub kick over the United line full-back Ray Smart, who gave another fine display, easily reached the ball first and touched down. An Old Boys forward raced up and also slithered over the ball. Result – a try awarded to Newport with an easy conversion to follow.

That then was the story of woe for unlucky United, who if they did not completely emerge as the better side, by no means deserved to lose by this margin.

Their pack, with Keith Trafford hooking well, and Don Solomon, John Herbert and Dave Jones working like terriers, had the edge on the Old Boys.

Howard Terrington, Michael Baker and Alec Hollingsworth were the pick of the backs.

Cornwall and Piper crossed for Newport, Dixey converting one and landing the penalty goal.