

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1954

GLOUCESTER FORWARDS TAKE CREDIT

Gloucester rugby supporters left Kingsholm on Saturday in a more cheerful mood than for many weeks.

They had just seen the Red and Whites suddenly click into top gear, after an uncertain first half, and end the club's long run of defeats with a thrilling 11pts.-3 victory over Bath.

The home team certainly reserved their best form for the later stages of the game.

Their display had been so patchy during the first half, that at the interval – with the Red and Whites three points behind – no one would have felt entirely safe in predicting a Gloucester win.

But afterwards it was a very different story !

Playing with greatly increased confidence, Gloucester gradually got on top and, as their superiority became more and more marked, so Bath virtually faded out as an attacking force.

FORWARDS' PART

The foundations of Gloucester's win were laid to a very large extent by the pack, who eventually mastered a strong Bath eight in the loose after the visitors' forwards had proved quite a handful in the earlier part of the game.

The outstanding Gloucester forward on this occasion was Dennis Ibbotson. He gave an excellent display of good backing-up and vigorous running, besides tackling determinedly in defence.

George Hastings and Roy Parry were among other forwards who worked particularly hard in the loose.

The hooking of Cyril Thomas won Glo'ster a good share of the ball from the set scrums, while in the line outs the Red and Whites' newest recruit to the pack, Brian Green, often showed up well.

GOOD SERVICE

A good service from the scrum by John Hobbs and some clever running by outside half David Jones – who played an important part in Gloucester's victory – were other notable features of Gloucester's display.

But at threequarter, the picture was not such a happy one.

Some praiseworthy individual efforts came from Roy Sutton and Michael Baker, but for much of the game the line as a whole moved far too slowly and wasted a lot of opportunities.

Even here, however, there was quite a big improvement in the later stages of the match.

CAUGHT UNAWARES

A Gloucester fault which could have had serious consequences was poor defensive covering in the first half – a factor which sometimes placed an unfair burden on full back Brian Sibery, who again served the Red and Whites well.

The only score before the interval was Bath's try – claimed by right centre David Curtis after a Weston cross-kick towards the wing had caught Gloucester's defence out of position.

Michael Baker levelled the scores with a 50-yards penalty goal for Gloucester . . . and then came the try of the match !

It was made by David Jones, who swerved his way through the Bath side with one of his most bewildering runs before sending Ibbotson dashing over. Baker converted.

Just before the end Baker was quick to pounce on the ball for another Gloucester try, after a drop-shot by Jones had struck one of the uprights.

JC