

## THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 1955

### NO EASY VICTORY – BUT A RAY OF HOPE

Hopes of a revival in Gloucester's fortunes were rekindled at Kingsholm on Saturday when the Red and Whites – showing much improved form – beat Leicester 11pts.-9 in a tough, exciting struggle.

Gloucester did not find the formidable Tigers an easy proposition.

It was a very close thing – at the end almost too close for comfort. But the will to win was there and, on the whole, the Red and Whites had good reason to feel satisfied with their performance.

A big point of interest about this match was the appearance of a new centre, Ieuan Sheen among Gloucester's three-quarters.

And although the Red and Whites' third line was not such a dangerous combination as the Leicester quartet enough was seen of Sheen to justify hopes that he will make considerable difference to the effectiveness of Gloucester's attack.

### LIVELY PACK

All sections of the Gloucester team could claim some credit for the Red and Whites' success.

Particularly spirited work again came from the forwards who, throughout most of the game, were livelier and more forceful raiders than the Leicester eight.

Their fast following up frequently threw the Tigers on the defensive and they also played a big part in helping to disorganise Leicester's own attacking machine.

Wing forwards Peter Ford and Dennis Ibbotson were always on the alert for opportunities of bursting a gap in the opposing side, while Roy Parry was another Gloucester forward who had an exceptionally good game.

### SPEEDY JONES

Plenty of useful work also came from the Red and Whites' half-backs John Hobbs and David Jones.

The latter made good use of his high-speed swerve, and some of his quick breaks had Leicester in serious difficulties.

Leicester's hopes were pinned to a very large extent on their fast-moving, quick-handling threequarter line, who always looked capable of pulling the game out of the fire if given half a chance.

And some unaccountable lapses in the otherwise very sound Gloucester defence came perilously near to helping them do it.

But Gloucester redeemed these lapses during the last few minutes of the game when an all-out onslaught by the Tigers was checked by the hard-pressed Red and Whites and finally beaten off.

### GIFT TRY

Gloucester opened the scoring when Parry started a movement which led to Hollingsworth, on the left wing, getting a good try after swerving back inside. Baker added the goal points from half-way out.

Leicester replied when a kick was charged down inside their own half and left-wing Marl Cullen – always a danger man – was presented with a runaway try which Gloucester had no earthly chance of stopping.

Early in the second half Baker increased Gloucester's lead with a beautiful penalty goal.

Leicester once more reduced the arrears – this time through a try by a forward, Pat Konig.

Gloucester, in their turn, drew further ahead again when David Jones and Ibbotson paved the way for Baker to cross for a try in the corner.

The last score was a try gained by Leicester winger John Lee following a nice passing movement.

Cullen failed with all three attempts to convert Leicester's tries, even though one shot was taken from an easy position.

#### UNITED SAW TOO LITTLE OF THE BALL

At Leicester Gloucester Utd. were beaten by Leicester "A" by two tries (6 points), to nil in a scrappy game in which neither side produced very good football.

The Leicester forwards generally commanded the ball and their backs were frequently in possession, but a poor service from the base of the scrum largely nullified this advantage, most passing movements failing against a keen defence.

With little of the ball Gloucester seldom looked dangerous, though, individually, Davis and Bowdler of the forwards, Meadows at scrum-half, and Long in the centre did well, while Dangerfield at full-back accomplished much useful work in defence.

On the one occasion in the first half when the Leicester three-quarters contrived an opening Clarke sent Shuttlewood over for an unconverted try, and in the second half, Baker, taking advantage of a defensive error, picked up to go over for another unconverted try for the winners.