

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1955

THE NEW LOOK SUITS RED AND WHITES

Gloucester's "new look" team fully justified the hopes of their supporters by bringing off a convincing win over the national Civil Service side at Kingsholm.

Their 11pts.-3 victory was not only well deserved, but it was also accomplished in the face of greatly increased odds.

For, with the game only a minute or two old, centre threequarter Don Hill suffered a nasty kick on the thigh which made him little more than a "passenger."

He later moved to the wing, stuck it out to half-time, but then had to go off. And for the whole of the second half Gloucester were battling with only 14 men !

But were they daunted ? Far from it ! Their form in the second half was infinitely better than before the interval, and it was during this period of the game that some of their best attacking moves were seen.

EXPERIMENTS

Much interest centred, of course, on the appearance of Ieuan Sheen at full back, Roy Blair in the centre, and the inclusion of newcomer Norman Rees on the right wing. They were all a distinct success !

Sheen showed good judgment and soundness in defence, and a feature of his play was his readiness to seize opportunities of turning defence into attack.

He gained eight of Gloucester's 11 points with some useful place kicks, and he was rather unlucky not to land three more penalty goals from fairly difficult positions.

Blair's powerful running brought much-needed thrust into the centre, while Rees, on the wing, handled well and also put in some strong runs.

FAULT CURED

Gloucester's first half display was somewhat marred at times by faulty tackling.

But this was effectively remedied after the interval, when crash-tackling Dennis Ibbotson was called into the depleted threequarter line.

It needed to be . . . , for Civil Service possessed a fast-moving third line which proved very dangerous on occasions.

And the visitors were by no means starved of the ball. Their line out work was superior to Gloucester's, and the hooking duel between Cyril Thomas and Brian Lane was fairly close.

All too frequently, however, the referee had to hand out penalties against the Service for scrum infringements.

BETTER IN LOOSE

In the loose Gloucester's pack more than held their own against the strong Civil Service eight.

Civil Service were the first to score when Peter Woodruff – the Harlequins and Cheltenham international – raced over for an unconverted try after a very nice quick-handling movement.

Gloucester got on level terms just before the interval, however, thanks to a penalty goal by Sheen.

A great try by Blair, who burst his way through the Civil Service defence with an unstoppable run, then put the Red and Whites ahead, and Sheen made no mistake with the conversion kick.

Towards the end of the second half Sheen landed another penalty goal.

JC