

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1955

GLO'STER'S VICTORY WAS NO FLUKE

Crushing Newport 11pts.-3 in a great battle at Kingsholm, Gloucester became only the sixth team to get the better of the famous Usksiders this season.

There was no fluke about the Red and Whites' success. This, their second consecutive home win at Newport's expense, was a convincing and well-deserved victory.

In the closing stages the visitors were a beaten side with most of the fight knocked out of them.

Gloucester's win was a triumph for the determined and enterprising way in which they seized vital scoring chances, coupled with a cast-iron defence when under pressure.

TOUGH STRUGGLE

A striking feature of Gloucester's success was the fact that they were able to cross their visitors' line on no fewer than three occasions – whereas Newport only mustered a penalty goal in reply.

Newport could, perhaps, derive consolation from the thought that owing to international calls and illness they were not at full strength.

But Gloucester, in turn, could claim that they themselves were fielding a side which, as regards the threequarter line at any rate, was unfamiliar and experimental.

Played in appalling conditions – steady rain and increasing muddiness underfoot – the game inevitably produced a particularly tough struggle between the packs.

And the Gloucester eight – up against one of the strongest club packs in the British Isles – really excelled themselves in the manner in which they weathered many storms and finally came out on top in the loose.

Though the Red and Whites' grand back row of Ford, Hodge and Ibbotson again stole much of the limelight, every member of the pack could justifiably feel proud of his contribution towards victory.

But the story of Gloucester's win does not end with the forwards.

The home backs, it is true, did not get many chances to initiate attacks from orthodox movements, but they were always on the alert for opportunities of catching Newport's defence on the wrong foot by liveliness and quick thinking.

And no one in Gloucester's back division played a more outstanding game than left centre Lewis Morgan, making his first appearance in the premier side this season. Showing thrust and good judgment, he had a big hand in both of Gloucester's first half tries.

Peter Ford gained the first try with a terrific follow-up after Morgan had cross-kicked.

On the second occasion Morgan went through with a beautiful run, sent a perfectly-timed pass to David Jones and the outside half scored near the posts after a characteristic burst.

These tries, the second of which was converted by Baker, sealed Newport's fate.

But for a time in the second half the Usksiders came dangerously close to getting on top.

SIBERY WAS SOUND

With their pack playing up very strongly and their hard-running, quick-handling threequarters frequently varying their tactics, Newport had Gloucester fully extended.

Thanks to some great defensive work, in which full back Brian Sibery was among those who stood out, Newport's attacks were, however, repulsed. In the last few minutes it was nearly all Gloucester, and Michael Baker got an unconverted try after an attempted clearance kick had been charged down.

Newport's penalty goal was kicked by Brian Jones.

MUD-BATH NO TONIC FOR THE UNITED

Fifteen minutes before time the referee called a halt to the match at Rodney Parade between Newport Utd. and Gloucester Utd., the atrocious conditions making further play farcical if not completely impossible.

At that juncture the home side were leading by 2 goals, 2 tries (19 points) to nil – and fully deserved this margin of victory.

The United were well served by their pack, who all worked at full pressure throughout; and if anyone is singled out it must be their veteran baggage man, George Hudson, who was pressed into service a few minutes before the kick-off.

Though not in fighting trim due to a recent accident, and short of match practice, he lasted the game as well as his younger colleagues and was always in the thick of the fray.

[Incomplete - passage missing]