

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 1955

LIVELY GLO'STER SEIZED THEIR CHANCES

Gloucester RFC added another famous "scalp" to their collection by beating Harlequins 10pts.-5 at Kingsholm.

The highlight of the afternoon was, however, reserved for the very last minute of the game, when the visitors' international threequarter, W. P. C. Davies raced through for a wonderful try.

Gaining possession inside his own half, Davies – surely the best attacking centre in English rugby today – went all out for Gloucester's line with one of his most determined runs.

Though many Gloucester players barred his way, Davies outwitted the defence by sheer thrust and clever swerving and touched down between the posts amid prolonged applause.

The game provided Gloucester with no easy path to victory.

They won largely through their quickness and opportunism in seizing scoring chances, coupled once again with some good covering in defence.

FAST RUNNERS

Principal honours on the Red and Whites' side went to the pack, who often had the visitors in trouble in the loose with forceful break-aways.

Bob Hodge, D. A. Jones and Peter Ford were particularly outstanding.

But as regards back play it was the Harlequins – with three internationals in their third line – who produced most of the worthwhile movements.

They found the rain-soaked ball something of a handicap in the first half, but after the interval they overcame the wet conditions so effectively that their fast running and swift, sure handling was a constant threat to Gloucester.

From this point of view it was fortunate for Gloucester that, taking the game as a whole, hooker Cyril Thomas did secure a reasonably good share of the ball.

It was one of those days, however, when the Red and Whites' own back division never really settled down.

The ball tended to come away too slowly from the scrum, Harlequins' wing forwards, D. Thompson and D. A. Whiting often proved troublesome, and the home threequarter line rarely got going with any degree of co-ordination.

There was no score until early in the second half when lively following up by Gloucester near Harlequins' line rattled the visitors' defence and Blair got a try. Baker converted with a beautiful kick.

The other Gloucester try came at the end of a determined foot rush; Hodge – with a surprising turn of speed – just winning the race for the ball. Baker again added the goal points.

Harlequins' try was converted by their international fullback Nigel Gibbs.