

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1955

GLO'STER'S VICTORY SPELL GOES ON

CHELTENHAM BEATEN 11-3;

BAKER TOPS 100 POINTS

Gloucester RFC gained their most clear-cut victory at Cheltenham for several years when they beat their local rivals 11-pts.-3 at the Athletic Ground yesterday evening in a hard, dour struggle.

The match was also noteworthy for the fact that it gave centre-threequarter Michael Baker his century of points for the season.

By converting a try and landing a nice penalty goal from a fairly wide angle he carried his personal tally points to 103.

Gloucester owed their victory chiefly to the fact that they possessed the livelier pack and made better use of their chances.

The Red and Whites had much the better of the first half and after the interval they did enough to keep Cheltenham's hopes of snatching the game out of the fire pretty well down to zero.

HANG IN SCRUM

A greasy, mud-patchy surface and a slippery ball did not favour good open play, and the forward exchanges were so strong and keen that neither back division had a great deal of scope.

Penalties for scrum infringements and off side were fairly frequent.

Gloucester's deputy reserve hooker John Lowe, though beaten in the later stages, won quite a good share of the ball taking the game as a whole.

But the ball seemed to hang in the scrum and too often Billy Nield was unable to get it away quickly enough to give his outside partner Lewis Morgan much chance.

On occasions Cheltenham's backs showed themselves capable of opening out more snappily than Gloucester's outsides but they made little headway in the face of close marking.

Peter Ford was once again one of Gloucester's best forwards in the loose and others who gave good support included Bob Hodge and Brian Green.

VERY SAFE

Though the Red and Whites' backs didn't come into the picture very much as an attacking force, there were a few good individual efforts.

And Ray Smart, Gloucester's second reserve full-back gave a very fine display.

With extremely limited scope, right wing Peter Lewis played an intelligent quick-thinking game, and it was he who opened the scoring for Gloucester.

The movement started near the Red and Whites' 25 when Gloucester's other winger, Roy Blair, found himself clasped firmly round the legs and slung a pass to Lewis Morgan.

With a fine turn of speed the outside half sped 40 yards down the touchline and then put over a well-judged cross kick.

Several Gloucester players and defenders raced for the ball but it was Lewis who nipped in smartly to get the touch down. Michael Baker added the goal points.

FORD'S TRY

Fairly early in the second half Baker increased Gloucester's lead with a penalty goal, but Cheltenham replied almost immediately when their full-back, Don Harvey, landed a similar score from an easier position.

Then followed a short period of play when Cheltenham's backs looked as though they might possibly cause Gloucester some trouble.

But their sparkle soon faded and before the end the Red and Whites got another try.

After a short burst and diagonal kick ahead by Roy Sutton the ball went into touch a few yards from Cheltenham's goal line. A quick lineout followed and Peter Ford plunged over for an unconverted try in the corner.

TEAMS

Cheltenham: D. Harvey; J. Mullins, T. Deavall, C. G. Woodruff. T. Williams; K. M. Walter, J. E. Place; L. Jenkins, A. D. Carpenter (capt.), R. Adams, R. S. Shrubbs, D. G. Pratten, R. D. Trotman, P. Holland, R. Beamish.

Gloucester: R. Smart; R. Blair, R. Sutton (capt.), M. Baker, P. Lewis; L. Morgan, W. Nield; R. Parry, J. Lowe, D. Solomon, B. Green, J. Varney, P. Ford, R. Hodge, D. Ibbotson.

Referee: Mr. N. Wyatt (Bristol).