

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 1955

GLO'STER LUCKY TO GET AWAY WITH A WIN

Gloucester Rugby Club's Easter Saturday fixture with New Brighton provided the holiday crowd at Kingsholm with plenty of thrills, but the Red and Whites' 11-6 victory will certainly not rank as one of their best performances.

The Cheshire side – playing Gloucester for what is believed to be the first time ever – showed such lively form that it would have done the home side no injustice had the game ended in a draw.

Gloucester, on the other hand, gave the impression of being a somewhat jaded team – understandably, perhaps, in view of the heavy crop of fixtures, some of them very tough ones, which they have recently had to fulfil.

QUICK MOVING

Opposed by a dashing, quick-moving set of forwards, Gloucester's pack never really established the clear-cut superiority in the loose, which has been such a notable feature of their play in many matches during the second half of the season.

And a bigger share of the ball in the set scrums gave New Brighton's backs plenty of opportunity to show their paces – aided at times by half-hearted Gloucester tackling.

In fact had the visitors really made the most of their chances they might very easily have won. Two otherwise certain tries were thrown away through forward passes.

Enterprising work in helping to initiate attacks came from the Cheshire team's full back B. B. Wright, who seemed to be here, there and everywhere.

PATCHY PLAY

Gloucester's form in attack was patchy. There were some good individual efforts by members of the back division, but generally speaking there was not enough co-ordination and mistakes were by no means infrequent.

Peter Lewis – a player only recently called into the First Fifteen – again did well on the right wing with limited opportunities.

He gained Gloucester's first try with a smart piece of work by punting over the opposing full back's head after John Hobbs had initiated an attack on the blind side.

The Red and Whites' second try was gained when left centre Lewis Morgan cut through cleverly with a swerving run, punted towards the corner flag and Sutton followed up well to claim the score.

SHEEN ON TARGET

Sheen converted one try and also landed a very nice penalty goal.

New Brighton's six points were made up of a penalty goal kicked by Hart, and a try by left wing Mayor after a break by scrum half J. Taverner.

DEPLETED UNITED'S GOOD WIN

Travelling to meet Bromsgrove with only eleven players – their ranks were completed by four of the home club's members – Gloucester United's chances of victory seemed very slender indeed.

Yet so splendidly did they rise to the occasion that following a pointless first half they crossed the Bromsgrove line to win unexpectedly, but deservedly, by 10 points to nil.

Half-backs Lynch and skipper Nield, and Amos of the threequarter line all worked hard to pierce the home defence, but it was not until the final stages that first Bowdler, then "guest" player David crossed for tries, both of which Smart converted.

Prominent in the United pack were Lowe, Burford, Mike Jones and young Peter Day.

With such depleted ranks it was probably United's best performance of the season.

JC