

THE CITIZEN

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 1955

SALE WIN LIVELY TUSSLE AT KINGSHOLM

Taking full advantage of some weak Gloucester tackling and covering, speedy Sale gave a fine exhibition of rugby to win a thrilling tussle by 19 points to 16 at Kingsholm yesterday.

The 5,000 Bank Holiday spectators who attended the game certainly had their money's worth.

For Gloucester, after being 8 points down at the interval, staged a remarkable second half recovery and snatched the lead from the northern visitors.

But Sale, always the more effective side behind the scrum returned to the attack with a will and gained two grand tries which put the issue beyond doubt.

The northerners' back division – one of the fastest and cleverest seen at Kingsholm this season – had a real live wire outside-half in R. Silley, who raced through himself for two fine tries besides being the spring-board for many of Sale's most dangerous attacks.

MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT

And the thrust of centre threequarter F. G. Griffiths – Lancashire county player and England trialist – was a constant threat to Gloucester's security.

But, even so, had Gloucester's covering and tackling been up to standard and had the visitors' outside half not been allowed so much rope, there might have been a rather different story to tell.

The sterling work of wing forward Dennis Ibbotson, who did not play in this game, was sadly missed.

Roy Blair, turning out in the centre, never looked happy in defence and another tragedy for Gloucester was the fact that Ieuan Sheen – also picked for the centre – pulled a muscle in his leg quite early on and had to be switched to the wing, where he was virtually a passenger.

Neither was outside-half Lewis Morgan at his best. His handling was uncertain at times and he was too prone to kick. On no fewer than six occasions he was unsuccessful with attempts to drop a goal.

In spite of this, however, Gloucester did have quite a lot to thank Morgan for. Besides gaining them seven points with some excellent place kicking, he played a leading part in the Red and Whites' third try.

Receiving a pass from Peter Lewis – Gloucester's best threequarter – Morgan swerved his way past defenders in a touchline dash, booted the ball high in the air above Sale's line and the score was gained by Alec Hollingsworth.

PACK DID WELL

But the fact that Gloucester – though beaten – were not disgraced, was due mainly to the spirited efforts of the pack, who made a great fight of it in the second half and frequently subjected the visitors' line to heavy pressure.

Peter Ford and Bob Hodge were again towers of strength in the home pack, and a good display also came from Cyril Thomas, who had the distinction of gaining two tries by quick work when the ball was kicked over Sale's line.

Morgan converted two of Gloucester's tries and also landed a penalty goal.

Try-scorers for Sale, in addition to Silley, were wing threequarter C. Wilson (two) and left centre A. E. Asquith. Griffiths converted two.

Gloucester's defeat brought to an end a victory run which had produced eight wins in a row. The Red and Whites were not at full strength for this game.

JC