

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1955

GLO'STER PACK EQUAL OF HEFTY WELSH

The sight of Ebbw Vale's huge second row forward and champion place kicker Ben Edwards running up to take penalty shots against Gloucester became quite familiar at Kingsholm on Saturday.

With any one of half-a-dozen or more kicks he could have won the match for the Vale.

But it wasn't Edwards's day. His kicks were either wide, short or low, and the game ended with honours even – each side having secured one try.

A draw was, perhaps, the fairest result in a match in which the standard of rugby seldom rose to any great heights.

EVEN STRUGGLE

Both sides had their moments, but for the most part the game consisted of a fairly even struggle between two quite well matched teams.

Although facing one of the heaviest, if not *the* heaviest pack they have met this season, Gloucester's eight were anything but overawed and generally looked perfectly capable of giving as good as they got.

Ebbw Vale did have rather more of the play territorially. But their forwards were not a particularly lively set and it was by no means uncommon to see Gloucester's pack doing the more effective work.

Neither team produced a great deal of successful back play. Movements were usually too slow or lacking in cohesion.

For a few minutes towards the end of the game Ebbw Vale's outsiders, spearheaded by outside half H. B. Morris, did shape more dangerously, but they were unable to break through.

PROMISING DISPLAY

Peter Meadows, making his debut at scrum half for Gloucester, experienced some difficulty at first in finding the right length with his passes, but later gave quite a promising display.

Just at the time when he was settling down, however, Ebbw Vale began to see much more of the ball and his opportunities became somewhat limited.

Another complication arose when David Jones had to go off to receive attention for a damaged foot, Lewis Morgan, who moved temporarily to outside-half, being unsure in his handling.

As a threequarter, however, Morgan probably caused Ebbw Vale more trouble than any other member of the line. At least one of his runs came very close to producing a Gloucester score.

Ray Smart, called in at full back as deputy to Brian Sibery, served Gloucester well in defence.

QUICK PASSING

The Red and Whites' got their try just before half-time, when quick passing by Meadows and David Jones, a few yards from the visitors' line, led to Hastings crossing wide out.

In the second half the Vale got on level terms through a try by Finney. He gained the score after a short foot rush by the visitors' pack had carried the ball to Gloucester's line.