

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1955

HALVES THE STARS IN GLOUCESTER WIN

Gloucester Rugby Club began their South-Western tour in fine style on Saturday with a 10pts.-6 victory over Devonport Services – a team who only a week earlier, had held star-studded Cardiff to a draw.

Thanks to their powerful second half rally it was a convincing win for Gloucester and a good one; even though the Red and Whites didn't always make the best use of their chances.

Ten minutes after the interval it was the Services – a team with quite a likely-looking back division – who were leading by six points to nil.

FORCEFUL ATTACKS

But Gloucester's forwards, with Ford, Hodge and Ibbotson again outstanding, had always been very dangerous in the loose. And with better form coming from the outsides – whose handling and running had up to then been somewhat ragged – Gloucester began a series of forceful attacks which had the Servicemen defending desperately.

Devonport's line had to fall sooner or later. And fall it did when outside half Lewis Morgan, taking a pass from Roy Parry, baffled the opposition with a brilliant swerve back inside and scored behind the posts. Morgan converted his own try and Gloucester were only one point behind.

There was no stopping the Red and Whites after that, and within two or three minutes they had forged ahead. The second score came when Peter Lewis got in a clever dribble near the touchline and gave Bob Hodge the opportunity to pick up and cross for a try which Morgan again converted.

ENCOURAGING FORM

Despite spasmodic raids by Devonport, Gloucester's grip on the game remained unshakeable in the closing stages, and on two occasions further scores only narrowly eluded them.

One of the most encouraging features of the Red and Whites' display was the form shown by their half backs.

Peter Meadows, playing at scrum half for only the second time shaped exceedingly well, and outside partner Lewis Morgan appeared to have gone a long way towards regaining his former skill and confidence.

Deputy reserve hooker John Lowe took a little time to settle down but later won Gloucester a very good share of the ball from the tight. Some useful lineout work came from D. A. Jones and Brian Green.

Devonport's tries were scored by PO Fred Prosser, himself a Gloucester man and one of the Service team's outstanding players, and full back Lt. Sharrock.

JC