

# THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1984

## GLOUCESTER CRASH AGAIN

LLANELLI 20 Pts., GLOUCESTER 6 Pts.

Forward domination is only half the battle – that was the message clearly driven home to the Cherry and Whites as they crashed to a fourth successive defeat at Stradey Park last night.

Even though Gloucester's forward resources were so sadly depleted that skipper John Orwin had to move to prop, the pack performed well against the Welshmen.

But whatever possession they won was wasted by a dismal performance by the backs – 'the worst this season' conceded chairman of selectors Alan Brinn afterwards.

"It was a poor result, but bearing in mind our string of injuries at present I was not too disappointed," said Brinn. "I have great hopes for the rest of the season once our problems are sorted out."

Wholesale changes in Gloucester's team saw Clive Dyke coming in at centre and Richard Mogg moving back to his old wing position because Nick Price dropped out. Orwin moved to the tight head position because Bob Phillips was unavailable and Larry Cummins came in belatedly for Mike Teague.

For the first hour the pack coped well against Llanelli's heavyweight eight and in the lines out Gloucester fared especially well with Brain and Boyle winning more than Llanelli's skipper Phil May, who was described as the outstanding line out forward in Wales last season.

John Gadd was in fine form, moving with energy and commitment, and Malcolm Preedy, despite his forthcoming replacement duty for England, spared nothing in his efforts.

But it was plain from the start that behind the scrums Llanelli had a monopoly on flair and imagination.

Ray Wood, Gloucester's third-choice scrum half, acquitted himself well against such formidable opponents but the rest of Gloucester's backs made little impact.

In contrast, Llanelli's outstanding young winger Phil Lewis – who has joined the Welsh squad this season – produced a snaking second minute run for a try, completely evading a desperate flying tackle by Mogg.

Twenty minutes later referee Ken Rowlands made a questionable decision which turned the tables completely on Gloucester. Morgan had intercepted a pass near Gloucester's line and was clear for a long run to the Scarlets' line.

But Rowlands ruled there was an infringement, awarded Llanelli a penalty and then ordered Gloucester back 10 metres for dissent. Llanelli ran the penalty and scrum half Paul Fleming went through for a try which Kevin Thomas converted.

#### ARREARS

Thus Gloucester, instead of going 6-4 up, found themselves 10-0 behind.

Thomas extended the Llanelli lead a few minutes later with a penalty but Peter Wickenden reduced the arrears to 13-6 at half-time with two 30-yard penalties from almost the same spot.

A fine run by Lewis three minutes into the second half led to a try for 18 stone prop Peter Davies and then a short range penalty by Thomas really put the Scarlets beyond reach.

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Phil Lewis. The Llanelli right winger gave a masterful display of his art.

JC