

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1984

HANNAFORD IS HERE TO STAY

GLOUCESTER 19 Pts., HARLEQUINS 6 Pts.

Marcus Hannaford, the 21-year-old former Widden Old Boys, Longlevens and Old Cryptians player, has now firmly established himself in Gloucester's first team. And his performance in this thoroughly deserved win against Harlequins at Kingsholm – by two goals, a try and a penalty to two penalties – underlined the improvements he has made over the last six weeks.

Selectors backed Hannaford's skill and stuck with him as he adjusted steadily to first class rugby. Now their faith is beginning to pay Gloucester back in a big way.

"I am a far more confident player now," said Hannaford. "I have polished up my game and I feel I am putting a lot more into the team effort."

But Hannaford is quick to point out how much his teammates have helped him settle into the job. A scrum-half can only operate properly if the forwards win good possession and Hannaford, who scored two tries against Harlequins, said:

"With the quality ball I have received over the last couple of matches I could hardly fail. It gives me a chance to get the ball away so much better."

SERVICE

The service to Hannaford, particularly from rucks and mauls was magnificent. The forwards played tightly as a unit and the back row were in tremendous form.

Number eight Mike Teague again appeared to be everywhere, while flankers John Gadd and Ian Smith both did well.

Other areas in which Gloucester came out with a good deal of credit were at full-back, where Paul Ford was solid and steady and at outside-half, where Mike Hamlin produced a series of accurate touch kicks.

But there is still room for improvement – Gloucester were poor in the line-outs and the three-quarters mishandled too often. However, progress is being made.

It took only 90 seconds for Gloucester to take the lead when Smith flicked the ball up off the ground and Hannaford went over. Ford converted to put Gloucester in command.

Stuart Thresher kicked a penalty to put 'Quins back in contention, but Hannaford went over for his second try after 23 minutes.

Gadd played a big part in the move and Hannaford was eventually flung over the line by a Harlequins player who failed with a desperate attempt to stop him. Thresher replied with Harlequins' second penalty, but at half-time Gloucester led 10-6 and they built on that advantage.

Ford kicked a penalty six minutes into the second period and then hooker Kevin White forced his way over. Ford converted to complete a well earned Gloucester win – their fourth in the last five matches.

Gloucester: Ford; Price, Taylor, Ellis, Richards; Hamlin, Hannaford; Jones, White, Phillips, Scrivens, Brain, Gadd, Smith, Teague.

Replacements: Wickenden, Bennett.

Harlequins: Thresher; Jefferson, Salmon, Dent, Quist-Arcton; Cramm, McHardy; Claxton, Rees, Milne, Wall, Curtis, Lillington, Aitken, Green. Lawrence replaced McHardy after 68 minutes. Other replacement: Blanchard.

Referee: J. Lowry (Notts., Lincs. and Derby).

MAN OF THE MATCH: Marcus Hannaford.

UNITED HOLD ON

RICHMOND VIKINGS 12 Pts., GLO'STER UNITED 14 Pts.

United gained another good win at Richmond with a solid team performance. Flanker Mike Longstaff was the pick of the forwards and in the backs Clive Dyke and Dave Pointon tackled well in defence.

United took the lead when Pointon put skipper Paul Wood over for a try which full-back Tim Smith converted.

United increased their lead with a try by hooker Ian Roberts from a line-out throw by Richmond near their own line.

In the second half prop Glyn Mann scored another try from a line-out.

With the wind against them United restricted Richmond to a goal and two penalties to gain a creditable victory.

JC