

# THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1984

WELSH SUCCESS EARNED IN STYLE

EBBW VALE 15 Pts., GLOUCESTER 24 Pts.

A display of discipline and style crushed the Ebbw Vale challenge at Eugene Cross Park last night. Gloucester were full of power and running as they earned their first win in Wales this season with their best display of the season.

On their last visit to Ebbw Vale two years ago Gloucester were beaten 45-18. This time Gloucester were in complete command and the final score flatters an Ebbw Vale side who were rarely in the match as a serious threat.

Hooker Kevin White took a strike against the head on seven occasions, thanks to magnificent teamwork in the scrum as the Gloucester pack shoved Vale off their own ball.

Delighted skipper Paul Taylor said afterwards: "It is coming together. We are at last playing as a complete team and that has lifted the standard of our performances."

## EFFICIENCY

Gloucester were without those players included in the South and South West squad to face the Australians on Saturday, but those who came in played a full part.

The front row of Peter Jones, Kevin White and Richard Pascall laid the foundation for victory with rock-like efficiency. Behind them flankers John Gadd and Ian Smith did well, while Larry Cummins was impressive at number eight.

The three-quarters handled well – with Nick Price outstanding – and full-back Paul Ford was in good kicking form, failing only once, when he hit a post with a penalty.

Gloucester won by three goals and two penalties to two goals and two penalties, although Vale's second try came during injury time when they were already a beaten side at 24-9 down.

Ford kicked a penalty to put Gloucester ahead after seven minutes, but poor defensive cover let Vale hit back with a try from Welsh B international Carl Dennehy, converted by Andrew Hawkes.

Soon after Gloucester went close when a drop goal attempt by Taylor hit a post, but they regained the lead they deserved when scrum-half Marcus Hannaford completely fooled the Vale cover at a penalty.

The defence went the wrong way as Hannaford slipped his pass to John Gadd, who stormed through for a try which Ford converted.

At half-time Gloucester led 9-6 and a penalty apiece soon after the break – Ford and Hawkes successful – kept the score closer than it should have been.

But Gloucester stepped up the pressure and a Vale break was intercepted on their own 25. Smith set Gloucester driving forward and Russ Ellis scored with Ford converting.

The victory was capped by the best try of the night when a speedy line move saw Mike Hamlin improvise and palm a high pass back for Ellis, who sent Andy Richards over. Ford converted and the 24-9 scoreline was about right.

But Vale took the edge off a magnificent victory by scoring a try through 19-year-old David Evans which Hawkes kicked. It left Vale only nine points behind when the margin could have been far wider.

After a disappointing start to the season Gloucester have bounced back well, winning five of their last six matches.

Ebbw Vale: Hawkes; Owen, Lewis, Davies, Evans; Jenkins, Norkett; Sibthorpe, Clarke, Cooper, Coughlin, Matthews, Fryer, Dennehy, Howells.

Replacements: Cook, Davies.

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

Replacements: Mann, Wood.

Referee: Clive Norling (Swansea).

MAN OF THE MATCH: Ian Smith.

JC