

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1984

GLO'STER SUNK BY LEWIS BOOT

NEWPORT 27 PTS., GLOUCESTER 13 PTS.

A masterful display by Newport outside half, Mike Lewis kept Gloucester out of contention at Rodney Parade.

His lethal boot, powerful running, and intelligent strategy were Gloucester's undoing in a match they might otherwise have won.

For despite being short of three key forwards, Gloucester were able to create opportunities and win useful possession throughout the game. They mounted a late burst with two Nick Price tries.

Hooker Kevin White took two strikes against the head in the scrums, repeating his performance against Ebbw Vale in midweek.

Scrum half Marcus Hannaford was also impressive again, staying unruffled and delivering a smooth service.

But, even with the return of Mike Teague, the forward momentum and determination was never as strong as against Ebbw Vale and the pack seemed to take an age to get into its stride.

To be at less than your best against Newport's powerful eight at Rodney Parade is a dangerous mistake, and so it proved for Gloucester as they found themselves 18-3 behind by the interval and 27-3 down midway through the second half.

## TRIES

Thanks to two fine tries by winger Nick Price in the final quarter it was not the whitewash that was always threatened.

In fact, given another ten minutes of play, Gloucester might even have been able to draw level or overtake.

But they left their revival far too late and had to be content with second best.

Lewis had already proved their undoing by kicking three penalties, converting all Newport's three tries, and delivering some flawless touch-kicks as well as testing Gloucester's defences repeatedly with his strong jinking runs.

It was in the loose, the rucks and mauls that Newport also excelled, winning second phase possession even when Gloucester had initially been in charge.

The Newport back row was in good form and Gloucester seemed to suffer from some puzzling penalty decisions by French referee, Monsieur Guy Maurette.

The game had begun promisingly enough for Gloucester with a first minute Paul Ford penalty after a brisk attacking start.

#### PENALTY

Lewis equalised with a penalty and then, from a line-out, Welsh skipper Mike Watkins put Newport's top try scorer, Marc Batten, in the clear and he powered down the line for a try which Lewis converted.

After another Lewis penalty, it was the turn of Newport's left winger, Chris Wood, to score. He did so when Gloucester were penalised 10 metres into Newport's half and they ran the ball.

In the second half another Lewis penalty was followed by centre Jason White slicing open Gloucester's defences by racing across the width of the field and passing to Batten, who slipped over for his second try. Lewis added the inevitable conversion.

Then, at last, came Gloucester's turn. In the 64th minute Price was first to the touchdown when Mike Hamlin sent up a high kick. Ford missed the conversion.

Almost in injury time, a break by Jason White was halted inside Gloucester's 22. Price intercepted and breathtakingly raced the length of the field for a glorious try. Ford converted.

The match ended with Gloucester claiming a third try, by Richard Pascall, but Monsieur Maurette decisively said "Non!"

MAN OF THE MATCH: Kevin White, for a superb effort against Welsh skipper Watkins.

Newport: P. Steele; M. Batten, C. Williams, J. White, C. Wood; M. Lewis, G. Williams; J. Rawlins, M. Watkins (capt.), R. Morgan, R. Young, A. Perry, R. Collins, D. Waters, G. George.

Gloucester: P. Ford; A. Richards, P. Taylor (capt.), E. Ellis, N. Price; M. Hamlin, M. Hannaford; P. Jones, K. White, R. Pascall, N. Scrivens, J. Brain, J. Gadd, M. Teague, I. Smith.

## UNITED TRIUMPH

GLOS. UTD. 30 Pts., NEWPORT UTD. 3 Pts.

Gloucester United gained another good win against their old Welsh rivals.

They were well served by the forwards, where prop Gordon Sargent was making a welcome return after injury and flankers Paul Wood and Mike Longstaff were on top of their form. Among the backs scrum half Ray Wood had a good game and centres Dave Pointon and Clive Dyke combined to make some thrustful breaks.

United opened the scoring with a try by lock Dick Burn from a drive by the forwards. Dyke chipped through for Derrick Morgan to score a try. Before half-time full-back Peter Wickenden kicked two penalties and Newport replied with a penalty.

In the second half, although playing against a strong wind, United played superbly and increased their lead with two brilliant tries by winger Derrick Morgan to complete his hat trick. Jeremy Bennett added another try and Wickenden added two conversions.

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