

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1984

FEROCIOUS GLO'STER ON TOP

GLOUCESTER 33 Pts., ABERTILLERY 6 Pts.

A display of aggressive forward power swept poor Abertillery aside at Kingsholm last night. The home pack were dominant in the scrum, ferocious in the loose and well on top in the line-out.

Lightweight Abertillery were always struggling to keep the score to a respectable level and they should have been beaten by 50 points or more.

Poor passing and handling wasted many openings which should have resulted in tries. Gloucester did string together a number of fine, flowing moves and scored several impressive tries, but passing must be improved.

The front row of Malcolm Preedy, Kevin White and Richard Pascall always had Abertillery in trouble. White took three strikes against the head thanks to impressive work by Preedy and Pascall.

Skipper John Orwin returned to the side at lock and he said afterwards: "It was an encouraging performance, but there is still plenty to work on."

The speed of Nick Price and the determination of Andy Richards played a big part in this win. Price scored two of Gloucester's five tries by outpacing the defensive cover, while Richards also scored two and had to beat off a couple of tackles to make it.

Full-back Tim Smith came in for Peter Ford and enjoyed a fine match. He kicked confidently and was unlucky to hit a post twice from conversion attempts, as he finished on 13 points.

BREAK

Gloucester went ahead after five minutes when Smith kicked a penalty and he soon extended that advantage to 6-0 from a penalty under the posts.

A third penalty goal – from Gloucester's fifth kick in only 21 minutes – took them nine points clear and then Richards went over after 27 minutes. A good break by outside-half Mike Hamlin set up the chance and Richards dived over in the corner.

Nigel Paul kicked a penalty for Abertillery soon after, but Gloucester were 19-3 ahead by half-time after Preedy burst through a gap to touch down and Smith converted.

It seemed that was the perfect platform for Gloucester to drive forward and run up a big score. But, apart from an Abertillery penalty kicked by Paul, there was no scoring for 17 minutes.

It came as a relief when Clive Dyke's good work set up a chance for Richards and the winger scrambled over the line under pressure for his ninth try of the season.

The match finished on a high note when the speed of Price twice left the Abertillery defence gasping. The first try came after a 30-yard Price run and Smith converted. Six minutes later Price repeated that burst of pace, kicking the ball through to touch down and complete the scoring.

GLOUCESTER: Smith; Richards, Pointon, Dyke, Price; Hamlin, Hannaford; Preedy, White, Pascall, Orwin, Brain, Gadd, Longstaff, Spencer.

Replacements: R. Wood, Mann.

ABERTILLERY: Owen; Madden, George, J. Davies, Nutt; Clarke, Paul; M. Davies, L. Jones, Nind, D. Jones, Clarke, Preece, Crane, Lewis.

Replacements: Bevan, James.

Referee: David Hudson (Manchester).

MAN OF THE MATCH: Full-back Tim Smith. . . kicked confidently and was always quickly up in support.

JC