

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1984

POLICEMEN COP A PACKET !

GLOUCESTER 32 Pts., SOUTH WALES POLICE 10 Pts.

Gloucester topped 30 points for the fourth successive match and produced their best performance of the season at Kingsholm last night. The patched-up pack provided the platform for a display that sent Police crashing to only their third defeat this season.

Police, who won 13-9 against Gloucester last season, gained some relief by claiming most of the line-out ball, but the Cherry and Whites dominated in every other department.

The forwards were a solid, efficient unit, half-backs Marcus Hannaford and Mike Hamlin linked well and the three-quarters tore through the Police defence with some slick handling. At full-back, Tim Smith continued his impressive recent form.

But the forwards must take pride of place. The new look front row of Gordon Sargent – recalled after a long spell out through injury – Kevin White and Peter Jones stood up well to a difficult test and in the second row Larry Cummins, normally a number eight, adapted superbly to his new role.

Gloucester, who have now won nine of their last 11 matches, won by three goals, two tries and two penalties to a try and two penalties.

A Smith penalty put Gloucester ahead, winger Derrick Morgan intercepted to score a try and then centre Russ Ellis burst through for another. Smith kicked the conversion to make it 13-0.

Police full-back Neale Harris pulled three points back from a penalty, but by half-time Gloucester led 16-3 after another Smith penalty.

For 15 minutes Gloucester faded, but it proved only to be the calm before the storm. Harris doubled the Police tally from a penalty, but then a break by scrum-half Hannaford set Gloucester back on the points trail. Smith converted Hannaford's try.

A Harris try completed the Police scoring for the evening, but there was more to come from Gloucester.

Nick Price went over, Smith converted and in injury time the score went past the 30 points mark with a typically powerful Gloucester move. John Brain won the ball at a line-out, White took the ball on and then fed the three-quarters, who, with Mike Teague making the extra man, swept the ball out for Morgan to score his 13th try of the season.

Gloucester: T. Smith; D. Morgan, P. Taylor, R. Ellis, N. Price; M. Hamlin, M. Hannaford; G. Sargent, K. White, P. Jones, L. Cummins, J. Brain, J. Bennett, I. Smith, M. Teague.

Replacements: R. Wood, G. Mann.

South Wales Police: N. Harris; M. Brinkworth, K. Jones, R. Donovan, C. Barber; J. Davies, T. Lee; G. Hiscocks. D. Roberts, D. Young, H. Marshall, S. Sutton, D. Price, P. R. Davies, J. Stroud.

Replacements: P. Noble, P. Warren.

Referee: R. Harding (Devon).

MAN OF THE MATCH: Plenty of candidates with Gordon Sargent, Peter Jones and Larry Cummins the chief contenders. The vote goes to Jones, a young player who is showing great promise as a prop.