

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1984

SECOND HALF BURST LIFTS GLOUCESTER

PLYMOUTH ALBION 12 Pts., GLOUCESTER 20 Pts.

It took Gloucester most of the first half to spot the weakness in Plymouth's otherwise surprisingly strong opening display at Beacon Park.

Plymouth led 6-4 at the interval, a true reflection of the game at that stage.

But Gloucester half-backs Mike Hamlin and Marcus Hannaford found Plymouth increasingly vulnerable when the ball was moved swiftly to wingers Derek Morgan and Nick Price.

Careful kicking into the gaps showed Plymouth slow to cover their corners.

This change of tactics changed the picture and Plymouth were proved wise to have opted for the match not to be counted for South West Merit Table purposes.

Plymouth selectors were, however, well satisfied with the result, in view of the number of inexperienced backs opposing Gloucester because of County demands.

The Plymouth initiative started among the forwards and there was a liveliness throughout the pack which even saw the back row forwards united with the front row in forward rushes led by skipper Brian Steer.

Winger Derrick Morgan was always a lively runner and also contributed to the defence for Gloucester in the opening stages.

Full back Tim Smith also lent his pace to the Gloucester attack as their backs began to be mobile in the second half. He contributed 12 points to take his personal tally to 59 in four matches since his first team recall.

Gloucester lost winger Price through a head injury in the second half and he was replaced by Clive Dyke, but this did not check the visitors' potential for creating overlaps in what was an entertaining match apart from an occasional niggle between the forwards.

Scorers. –

Plymouth: Try, Charles Taylor; penalty goals, John Butcher (2), conversion Butcher.

Gloucester: tries Morgan (2) and Tim Smith; penalty goals; Tim Smith (2); conversion, Tim Smith.

MAN OF THE MATCH: Derrick Morgan – two more tries and good defensive work.

JC