

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1984

GLOUCESTER GIVE STUDENTS RUGBY LESSON

GLOUCESTER 30 Pts., EXETER UNIVERSITY 3 Pts.

Gloucester ran in six tries to give the academics from Exeter University a severe rugby lesson at Kingsholm last night. It was Gloucester's eighth successive win and they were always in control against a University team which battled fiercely but gave superior Gloucester few problems.

The Exeter forwards were never a match for their hosts and despite the greasy conditions on a windy and wet night, Gloucester's three-quarters produced some slick handling and running to leave the visitors well beaten.

Winger Andy Richards was the star, producing a sparkling display on the left wing, and there were also fine performances from Richard Mogg, back again after injury, Paul Taylor, and Jim Breeze, who weighed in with two tries. They combined to tear the Exeter defensive cover apart.

Mike Hamlin can also look back on the match with satisfaction. Gloucester's first choice outside-half is a sharp and eager player who is kicking superbly.

This was far from Gloucester's best display of the season and for a long spell in the second half the match fell flat with nothing to cheer spectators. But in an often scrappy game it was still a well earned win.

It was a pity Gloucester could not have scored another try. The 30 point tally left them four short of the 500 mark for the season and pointing to a marvellous run by Richards which failed by a whisker.

Richards swept past two tackles and as the cover raced to challenge he dived for the line. The ball, still in Richards' grasp, finished less than a foot from the line – so near and yet so far.

But the winger was delighted to prove his fitness in time for Saturday's County Championship match between Gloucestershire and Midland opponents Notts/Lincs. and Derby.

By half-time against Exeter four tries had been grounded. Jim Breeze, Ray Wood, Richards and Tim Smith were the scorers and full-back Smith converted once. The score was 18-3, Jim O'Sullivan kicking a penalty for Exeter. That left 16 points for Gloucester to top 500, but for 26 minutes Gloucester failed to score as the rain continued to fall.

Breeze scored his second try, converted by Smith, to break the deadlock and with three minutes left Hamlin went over for a try which Smith converted, but the referee decided to blow for time a little early and Gloucester's chance of a late try was gone.

Gloucester: T. Smith; J. Breeze, P. Taylor, R. Mogg, A. Richards; M. Hamlin, R. Wood; P. Jones, K. White, R. Pascall, N. Scrivens, J. Brain, J. Bennett, M. Longstaff, L. Cummins.
Replacements: P. Wickenden, P. Wood.

Exeter University: G. Stratton; M. Crawford, P. Strike, J. O'Sullivan, M. Hoskins; K. Noble, A. Shufflebotham; A. Robinson, C. Atro-Morris, K. Long, T. Edbrooke, R. Perry, M. Cathery, N. Morris, J. Barratt.
Replacements: R. Bell, V. Hales.

Referee: M. Peters (Somerset).

MAN OF THE MATCH: Andy Richards.