

# THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1984

## GLOUCESTER BACKS ON RAMPAGE

GLOUCESTER 41 Pts., LOUGHBOROUGH COLL. 10 Pts.

Gloucester bounced back from defeat against London Irish at the weekend with a dazzling display against the British collegiate champions at Kingsholm, last night.

Critics who suggest Gloucester possess an eight-man shove and little else were left eating their words as the backs produced a performance of flair and imagination to run in eight tries between them.

The students, fit and fast, were determined to keep the game open and gave an object lesson in swift distribution on the few occasions the ball came their way.

But Gloucester responded in glorious fashion with positive handling moves orchestrated by half-backs Hamlin and Hannaford, who revelled in the freedom offered by opponents who refused to close down the game even when the outcome was obvious.

Kingsholm fans also had something to cheer in the Loughborough performance, as all the students' points were scored by local boy Chris Howard, who plays for Brockworth during vacations.

Gloucester took the lead after nine minutes when Hannaford sold an enormous dummy behind a five-yard scrum and strolled over on the blindside for Peter Wickenden to convert with a magnificent kick from the touchline. Six minutes later Richard Mogg gave evidence of complete recovery from his recent leg injury with a superb try.

Orwin won the ball at the front of a line-out, Hannaford whipped the ball out to Taylor, who scissored with Mogg, the centre slicing through the entire College defence to score. Wickenden added the points.

Two Howard penalties sandwiched Gloucester's next try, another flowing threequarter move, finished by winger Jim Breeze, and Wickenden kicked a penalty to give the hosts a 19-6 interval lead.

The play was no less adventurous in the second half and tries continued to come – from Wickenden, Taylor, Hamlin and Hannaford, who completed his hat-trick with two in the last few minutes. Wickenden converted one to take his match tally to 13 points.

Coach Bob Redwood's pledge to produce back play worthy of Gloucester's formidable forwards was fulfilled, even if the Cherry and Whites were fielding a somewhat stronger than usual midweek team against less than top-class opposition.

Whether the same tactics will be employed – or even possible – against the redoubtable Leicester side on Saturday is an interesting speculation.

Teams. –

Gloucester: Wickenden; Breeze, Mogg, Taylor, Price; Hamlin, Hannaford; Jones, White, Pascall, Orwin, Brain, Gadd, Smith, Teague.

Loughborough: Harris; Howard, Burnhill, Allen, James; Reid, Hancock; Hughes, Rogerson, Hanley, Morrison, Heaver, Buchanan-Smith, Robinson, Kelly.

MAN OF THE MATCH: Marcus Hannaford.