

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1984

NICK THE KNACK FLOORS LYDNEY

GLOUCESTER 25 Pts., LYDNEY 9 Pts.

In Wales they would call Gloucester's winger Price "Nick the Knack." He touched the ball twice in the first half against Lydney and on each occasion scored tries to send the Severnsiders skidding to defeat.

Price's tries knocked the festive stuffing out of Lydney and put Gloucester on course for a deserved victory to avenge three successive defeats at the hands of their close neighbours.

Neither side played to their potential and it was a good natured derby – the stuff to run off the excesses of roast turkey and Christmas pud in time for Saturday's fixtures.

Gloucester won the superior possession and were particularly well served by skipper John Orwin and the outstanding Mike Teague.

But Lydney have stout and redoubtable defensive qualities. Carpenter, Fowke and Curtis made the Cherry and Whites work for every scrap of possession in the loose.

For a 15-minute period before half-time Gloucester threatened to break loose and win more comfortably than they did.

At that stage the score was 6-6, Andy Howells and Ian Wilkins having kicked penalty goals for Lydney and Derrick Morgan following up a chip ahead to score a try, which Smith converted for Gloucester.

At that stage Price had not touched the ball and had not been called upon to make a tackle. But suddenly a half-break by Mogg put him free and he raced away to score a fine try, converted by Smith.

Lydney immediately conceded a penalty following a scrummaging infringement and the game was virtually up two minutes later when a kick to the corner by Mogg was snapped up by Price.

Gloucester's Smith broke the second-half deadlock with a splendid try, splitting Lydney's defence in midfield to race over near the posts and add the conversion points himself.

Lydney had the last say with a penalty by Wilkins.

MAN OF THE MATCH: Tim Smith. . . an excellent all-round display.

JC