

THE CITIZEN

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1985

BOYLE'S BRUMMIES SINK GLOUCESTER

MOSELEY 16 Pts. GLOUCESTER 7 Pts.

Weakened Gloucester paid for a pedestrian first half performance as they were sunk by Steve Boyle's Moseley.

The former Kingsholm favourite relished captaining his new club against his old teammates and set a fine example with a hard working performance.

Although Boyle has steadily improved since moving to Birmingham, Moseley's form has remained erratic. But they saved their most determined effort for Gloucester.

Neither side managed to produce the open rugby the large crowd had come to see but the game was never short of incident.

The Gloucester forwards won plenty of ball but sloppy handling and slipshod tackling allowed Moseley to seize the initiative.

Gloucester's main failing came in going off-side too often – mostly in their own half – which proved to be a criminal waste of possession.

Moseley played a much tighter game with positive tackling and some superbly judged clearance kicking.

Full back Ian Metcalfe hit form from the start and his long touch finding kicks pushed Gloucester back into defence.

The Midlanders raced into a 16-nil half time lead with a try from hooker Chris Barber, three Metcalfe penalties and a neat Paul Goodwin drop goal.

But instead of pressing home their advantage Moseley eased off after the break and Gloucester began to expand their game.

Although Nick Price threatened several times he never had proper support. Then with the minutes ticking away John Brain crashed over from a line-out and Tim Smith landed a 75-minute penalty to give Gloucester hope.

But there was no way Moseley were going to let the game slip and with Metcalfe steady as ever at the back, Boyle was able to enjoy his New Year's Day.

Moseley: Metcalfe, J. Goodwin, Arntzen, C. Smith, Thomas, P. Goodwin, A. Williamson, Linnett, Barber, Gisbourne, Recardo, Boyle, Day, Hobbs, Shillingford.

Gloucester: T. Smith; Morgan, Taylor, Mogg, Price; Hamlin, Hannaford; Preedy, White, Pascall, Scrivens, Brain, Gadd, I. Smith, Cummins.

Referee: Mr. G. Davies, Liverpool.

MAN OF THE MATCH: Nick Price.

JC