

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 1985

HARE HOUNDS GLOUCESTER

LEICESTER 27 PTS., GLOUCESTER 6 PTS.

After matching Leicester for 50 minutes, Gloucester collapsed to a Hare-raising defeat at Welford-rd. It was a worrying result with the John Player Cup tie against Richmond only two weeks away and the worst display from the Cherry and Whites for some time.

Former England full-back Dusty Hare sent Gloucester crashing by scoring 23 points – a try, dropped goal, and two conversions.

Leicester were thrashed 37-15 at Kingsholm last month, but they encountered far better fortune in their first match of 1985.

It was the 144th meeting between the clubs and Leicester's 62nd victory in the 94 years since the first fixture.

Instead of being totally dominated by the Gloucester pack, as the Tigers were at Kingsholm, Leicester found themselves able to hold the visitors.

And they took full advantage of Gloucester's weakness in the back row.

Number eight Mike Teague, on duty with the England squad, and injured flanker John Gadd were badly missed even though Jeremy Bennett and Larry Cummins gave everything in the Gloucester cause.

And Gloucester could also have done with skipper John Orwin in the line-outs.

STRUGGLE

The clear understanding scrum-half Marcus Hannaford has developed with Teague and Gadd this season was underlined by his struggle against Leicester. The usually effective Hannaford was kept under pressure by the speedy and aggressive Leicester men.

As a result Gloucester's threequarters were never able to stretch the Leicester defence.

Leicester's scrum-half Steve Kenney, who went off with a shoulder injury 10 minutes from time, said afterwards : "Revenge is sweet. We love to beat Gloucester, particularly after we were beaten 37-15 at Kingsholm.

"Our forwards were given a real roasting that day and they had to put the record straight."

Gloucester showed plenty of spirit without being able to produce anything like their normal form and the front row did a lot to keep them in contention for so long.

Props Malcolm Preedy and Richard Pascall both did well, with Pascall again in brilliant form, and hooker Kevin White was able to take several strikes against the head.

Hare kicked two penalties in the first 10 minutes to put Leicester on top.

A dropped goal by Mike Hamlin and a penalty from full-back Tim Smith levelled matters.

LEVEL

It looked certain the teams would be level at the interval, but Hare scored with a beautifully struck dropped goal after 41 minutes.

For a spell in the second half it seemed Gloucester were about to take control, but then Hare turned the match firmly in Leicester's favour when he burst through a yawning gap in the defence to go over.

The conversion put Leicester 15-6 ahead and Gloucester never again looked capable of turning the match in their favour.

Hare kicked two more penalties and then Kevin Williams went through for a second try which Hare converted.

A bad day for Gloucester and with a trip to face in-form Wasps next Saturday, an improvement is needed. But with a game under the belts the new-look back row will have more chance of forging a better understanding with Hannaford.

Leicester: W. Hare; B. Evans, J. Harris, V. Afflick, K. Williams; L. Cusworth, S. Kenney; Stu Redfern, P. Wheeler, W. Richardson, N. Jackson, M. Foulkes-Arnold, J. Wells, D. Richards, I. Smith (capt.).
R. Pell replaced S. Kenney after 70 minutes.
Other replacement: A. Marriott.

Gloucester: T. Smith; D. Morgan, R. Mogg, P. Taylor (capt.), N. Price; M. Hamlin, M. Hannaford; M. Preedy, K. White, R. Pascall, N. Scrivens, J. Brain, J. Bennett, L. Cummins, I. Smith.
Replacements: C. Dyke, M. Longstaff.

Referee: C. Leeke (East Midlands Society).

MAN OF THE MATCH: Richard Pascall. . . his domination was a massive help to hooker Kevin White.