

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1985

GLOUCESTER ON TOP IN CUP CLASH

Gloucester, playing against a strong breeze, coasted to a 9-point half-time lead in their John Player Cup fourth round tie at Kingsholm this afternoon.

With a place in the quarter-finals at stake, Gloucester were well on top by the end of the half, having taken command in the scrums with the front row prominent.

Gloucester took a long time to settle in a scrappy opening. But they went ahead after exerting pressure for the first time inside the Saracens 25.

Saracens had missed two penalty attempts from the half way line when referee Alan Turner (Manchester) ordered a five metre scrum after 17 minutes.

Scrum-half Marcus Hannaford set the line running and centre Richard Mogg checked inside before chipping superbly through. Winger NICK PRICE ran on for an easy touch down and full back TIM SMITH converted.

Soon after Saracens were awarded a penalty for pushing at the line-out, but Phil Anthony kicked wide.

A powerful break by second row forward Dick Burn, making his first team debut for Gloucester, produced more pressure. And from a penalty in front of the post SMITH kicked accurately to put Gloucester nine-nil ahead.

Saracens missed another penalty attempt – their fourth of the first half – when Phil Anthony pulled his kick well wide to leave Gloucester in command at the interval.

HALF-TIME :
Gloucester 9, Saracens 0.

IAN SMITH scored Gloucester's second try after 50 minutes and TIM SMITH converted to put the Cherry and Whites 15-nil ahead.

JC