

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1985

JOHN PLAYER CUP . . . GLOUCESTER JOY

LARRY TURNS THE SCREW

GLOUCESTER 29 pts. SARACENS 3

A brilliant last minute try by number eight Larry Cummins capped a powerful Gloucester display in this John Player Cup fourth round tie against Saracens at Kingsholm.

Gloucester clinched their place in the quarter-finals with a comfortable and well deserved win against North London opposition who were never quite up to the task.

Tries from Nick Price, Ian Smith, Derrick Morgan, skipper Paul Taylor and Cummings flattened the Saracens challenge and threw out a clear message to any club with hopes of winning the Player Cup – you come to Kingsholm at your peril.

Gloucester are now unbeaten in their last 18 home matches and are an impressive side on their own turf.

But it was that Cummins' try which will be remembered for some time. Saracens had been pressing hard for 15 minutes when scrum-half Marcus Hannaford broke inside his own 22. Mogg, Tim Smith and Morgan all joined in as Gloucester ran the length of the pitch with Cummins bursting through to add the final touch.

Tim Smith converted to complete the victory.

The platform was provided by a committed pack in which prop Phil Blakeway, Mike Teague, and Ian Smith were outstanding. In the second row Dick Burn, making his first team debut for Gloucester, came through well even though he struggled in the line-outs.

Burn replaced Gloucester skipper John Orwin, who was ruled out by 'flu. Both are RAF aircraft technicians holding the rank of corporal and based at Brize Norton.

"He did okay," said the watching Orwin later, "Particularly in the loose. He struggled a bit in the line-outs, but I've lectured him about that."

The threequarters handled well and ran aggressively at every chance with Richard Mogg also producing some strong tackling to snuff out a couple of promising moves by Saracens.

After taking time to settle in what was often a scrappy match, Gloucester went ahead after 17 minutes. Mogg set up the try when he checked and chipped through for Price to score and Tim Smith converted.

A powerful break by Burn produced more Gloucester pressure which resulted in a penalty which Tim Smith kicked accurately.

That put Gloucester nine points ahead at the break, but any thoughts Saracens had of staging a recovery were quickly stifled. Ian Smith scored a try after good work by Mogg and Tim Smith sent over the conversion to make it 15-nil.

Phil Anthony replied with a penalty for Saracens, but they were soon under pressure again. John Brain broke to set up the third Gloucester try for Taylor and with eight minutes left Morgan went over after Hamlin burst through suspect Saracens cover.

Tim Smith missed both conversions, but then came that marvellous Cummins try which sent spectators home with plenty to talk about.

#### MAN OF THE MATCH

Richard Mogg. . . inspired in attack and produced some solid defensive tackles.

## MILLS BACK IN ACTION

Gloucester Utd. 13 pts., Rosslyn Park A 6 pts.

England hooker Steve Mills and County winger Andy Richards both made their comebacks after extended injury lay-offs in a comfortable United victory.

The match, played on the Civil Service ground, never reached great heights as both sides made mistakes.

United were soon on the attack and took the lead with a try by skipper Paul Wood from a back row move at the scrum.

Peter Wickenden converted and added a penalty.

After the interval stand-in lock Dave Spencer drove over for a try from a line-out to clinch the game.

JC