

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2002

## PHILIPPE BLASTS VALE'S LINE-OUT TACTICS

Adam Eustace will be released from hospital tomorrow after having pins inserted in his left leg that he broke against Ebbw Vale on Friday.

The Gloucester second row broke his Fibula after twisting badly during the Cherry and Whites' Parker Pen Shield victory at a rain-lashed Kingsholm.

He was immediately sent to Gloucestershire Royal Hospital for an operation, but he is likely to be out of action for six months.

It is a shocking blow to the lock or back row forward who was expected to make his debut for England A against Scotland on Friday.

Kingsholm chief Philippe Saint-Andre blasted the Steelmen for their line-out tactics and urged the referee to deal harshly with offenders.

"It is very dangerous for the players and it must be penalised," he said.

"There should be yellow cards for this. Players could damage their necks, shoulder, legs or arms because it is a very dangerous tactic."

The 23-year-old will now face at least six months on the Kingsholm sidelines after a splendid season in which he had confirmed his status as one of the most dangerous forwards in the game.

His injury seriously dented Gloucester's victory celebrations, with Saint-Andre's men joined in the last four of the competition by Sale, Pontypridd and London Irish.

The semi-final draw is on Tuesday, February 5 with the two 'home' teams drawn out first and third to play at home in that country.

Gloucester will be confident of making the final, but London Irish returned a superb victory against Pau yesterday, while Sale defeated Bristol and Saracens were dumped out by Pontypridd.

A Shield victory would guarantee Gloucester a place in the Heineken Cup next season.

JC