

THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1964

MACE GOES BACK TO KINGSHOLM TO STEAL GLORY

GLOUCESTER WIN AS NICK FOICE NOTCHES TWO TRIES

GLOUCESTER 16 Pts., CHELTENHAM NIL

Gloucester need not feel smug about this victory although they defeated Cheltenham by two goals, a try and a penalty goal to nothing.

For Cheltenham held considerable territorial sway in the second half – due largely to some very smart retrieving by that loping Labrador among scrum-halves, Garry Mace – and could thank the enthusiasm if not the accuracy, of their own defenders for spoiling many Gloucester scoring chances.

Instead, one of Cheltenham's own players, Nick Foice, now fortunately for the home side, a Gloucester winger, was responsible for ten points; he scored two tries which Don Rutherford converted.

And the other points were supplied by John Bayliss, the Gloucester centre who scored a try and again Rutherford who, in a less than brilliant game, kicked a penalty.

MORE POSSESSION

Bayliss opened the home scoring with his try in the 17th minute. There was to be no further home score until just before half time, when Rutherford inspired a resounding cheer with a fine fifty-yard penalty, booted from a wide angle.

Territorially at half time – when Gloucester had gained 8 points – the game was slightly in Gloucester's favour. The home eight had been getting more possession from the set scrums and line-outs.

But on the resumption the boot was on the other foot. Ian Holmes proved a splendid blindside wing forward and Davies an effective number eight in a fine, sporting Cheltenham pack who for long spells of the second half had the home eight beaten in the set scrums and the line-outs.

When he got possession scrum-half Gary Mace was a continual danger to Gloucester. He was the most effective attacking player on the field with the possible exception of Foice and Bayliss, who had proved their ability by scoring tries.

NEVER AWED

Mace, though, showed that, despite lack of training he was able (like one imagines Keith Miller or Sobers) to play an excellent game. His pass out had all the fire of a surprise ball from Miller.

And I felt often that his fly-half, Owen, had he known the length which Mace can throw would have been better advised to stand deeper than he did.

Sometimes Mace's rocket-like passes went to the centres, and, as always, the ex-Gloucester scrum-half was never awed by a defensive situation. He sent out his best reverse pass from behind his own line !

And when it came to fast retrieving and long touch kicks Mace had the edge over Booth in this game.

Foice, both of whose tries came in the second half, must pull a forelock in Bayliss's direction for setting them up for him.

Booth, Hopson and Vallender (once again proving what an incisive centre he is, more inclined to find a really clean break than anyone else in the Gloucester team) had passed before Bayliss gave possession to Foice for the first of his tries.

SUPERB CROSS-KICK

But this try had nothing on the second Foice try which came from a superbly judged cross kick by Bayliss. Foice must have been grateful that Bayliss knew just where to put the ball. He caught Bayliss's kick on the wing and threatened by Cheltenham defenders short of the visitors' 25, chipped over the full-back's head.

He caught up with it again, kicked ahead, and when the ball went free from a very sparse maul (perhaps it was Bayliss who hoofed it free?) Foice was able to pick up and race over the line again to place it centrally for Rutherford's conversion.

UNHAPPY FEELING

So far as Gloucester is concerned they could well feel unhappy that they no longer have Mace playing for them. Several home players made a "B" line for him but none could really draw this natural Rugby player's sting.

In several set scrums Dick Smith was standing back among the backs which, in view of his prodigious tackling abilities, the new laws, his bursts of speed and evasive abilities, seemed like a good, good idea.