

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1964

IMPRESSIVE SCORING DEBUT BY GLO'STER WINGER

GLOUCESTER 13 Pts., BATH 3 Pts.

The greatest try of the afternoon was disallowed at Kingsholm on Saturday when Gloucester beat Bath by two goals and a try to a try.

The second half – the teams crossed over with a mere three points on the board – provided all the thrills, and it was towards the end when Don Rutherford, as he was so often, found himself in an attacking position.

He was in possession near the Bath 25 and was trying to evade a tackle. He failed. But in falling he succeeded in setting up a great try for the fine new Gloucester winger, J. Groves.

Under a tackle round the ankles Rutherford made the split second decision to send a dive-pass out to Groves on the wing. Sitting behind the move, the pass looked good enough to me and Groves grasped it, showed it to three Bath defenders in a handsome jinking run and grounded the ball.

Unfortunately the referee thought that desperate last-minute pass of Rutherford's was forward and it was disallowed.

However the move had confirmed what we had already thought; namely that Groves is potentially the best winger, the most evasive on Gloucester's books at the moment. For he had scored tries and impressed already. But this was his best run and unhappily it did not count.

Where Foice is a runner of great courage and determination and a very difficult man to stop – Groves is a player who seems to avoid grasping hands. Foice shakes them off but Groves evades them altogether. Or so it would seem on Saturday's excellent form.

GOOD CONTROL

Groves scored two of Gloucester's tries – one from a nicely-judged kick inside by Rutherford who was up with the threes for the umpteenth time. Rutherford chose not to crowd Groves on the wing and give him the chance of breaking into an open field ahead of all challengers and to get a paw on the ball over Bath's line.

In the first half the new winger had just managed to sidestep inside a yard from the corner flag. Then Morris, deputising right royally for John Bayliss, tackling staunchly and showing remarkable ball control in his run for the final try. It was an easy one for Rutherford to convert for the young Gloucester centre contrived with three long fly-kicks to hoof it towards the middle during his long run from his own half. In view of the conditions – wet and slithery – it was a remarkable effort.

Booth was back to good form after his brief lay-off. And Gloucester fly-half Terry Hopson put in one of those foot rush attacks which seemed a feature of the game. Hopson's speed was, as usual, impressive and he came within an ace of scoring a try into the bargain.

OUTWITTED

Bath's single try was scored by J. Donovan, their left winger who was the outstanding visiting back and looked dangerous. He outwitted Rutherford with a kick ahead and landed an unconverted try.

Bath's pack played with great spirit but – despite the conditions – it was not, surprisingly enough, an outstanding forward game. It was not an outstanding game in any way. But it was a thoroughly satisfactory win for Gloucester who should meet formidable Coventry next Saturday with a little more confidence than they would have done a week ago.