

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1965

REVIVED GLO'STER GALLOP TO A GREAT WIN

GLOUCESTER 20 Pts., CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY 8 Pts.

With a score more games yet to play, Gloucester have got over the mid-season blues, and now look to be set fair for a triumphant gallop down the home stretch – and maybe the away stretch, too !

This was the sentiment many spectators on Saturday must have felt, watching a "new deal" Gloucester side beating Cambridge in all departments.

There was a revival of the spirit in the Gloucester team which had been missing since last October when county matches started to claim the star players and leave Gloucester open to such ignominious defeats as those suffered at Coventry and Newbridge.

PACK STILL DOMINANT

Although the pack has undergone changes since the good old days back in October it is still the strength of Gloucester and on Saturday the crafty wiles of such players as Ken Taylor, Roy Long and Peter Ford proved too much for the young men of Cambridge.

Indeed, Mickie Booth's one piece of trickery was more the kind of thing we expect from the keen intellects of the University.

For Booth, seeing that the packs were lined up in front of the Cambridge posts for a set scrummage made a dash from the set scrum after the put-in, drawing the eager young Cambridge wing forward Tony Kitchin in pursuit.

The ball had remained in the back row and Kitchin was very off-side indeed. Don Rutherford had no difficulty in kicking the penalty which the referee was obliged to award for this piece of over enthusiasm by Kitchin.

In the first half, however, Gloucester did not really look to be the masters.

DING-DONG FIRST HALF

It was a ding-dong game until the interval, when Cambridge trailed by a single point.

The Light Blues' backs looked extremely dangerous – especially Stuart Fleming, a big winger with a side-step in either boot and a superb turn of speed.

He should be playing for England.

After the interval Gloucester managed to dictate a forward game and kept Cambridge pinned inside their own half for most of the time.

And even if the Varsity backs did look faster than Gloucester's the home covering was so ruthlessly effective that each dangerous-looking move was stifled.

Among the tacklers – apart from such effective members of the pack as Dave Kington (a tough customer deputising for Dick Smith) John Milner and Mike Burton – Terry Hopson and John Groves were outstanding.

HOPSON'S FINE GAME

The new spirit of Gloucester – if such it is – was typified in Hopson's game which was as sound defensively as it was dangerous in attack.

He scored a fine try on the wing because he saw the opportunity to use his speed and came up to support that splendid loose forward Dave Owen who was looking for a man to pass to.

Hopson streaked up to the lonely Owen and called for a pass outside. He ran well along the wing and scored a try which Rutherford converted by bringing the ball off the right hand upright.

Rutherford had a good day, too, kicking three penalty goals to make his personal bag 11 points.

Hopson kicked a good drop goal and set up a try for Bayliss with one of his incomparably judged kicks ahead.

I have memories of two splendid defensive moves by the courageous Groves on the wing – both in the teeth of bigger men.

But it is finally Hopson who remains in my mind as the complete fly-half, the fly-half we all know lurks under the surface but which, until Saturday, had never emerged quite so brilliantly.

JC