

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1965

GLO'STER – AND DICK SMITH – HAD THE ARMY ON THE RUN

GLOUCESTER 29 Pts., ARMY 11 Pts.

Gloucester's finest centre plays in the pack! This was the conclusion one was forced to reach after seeing Dick Smith's superb display of running with the ball on Saturday.

For the Gloucester wing forward, who has received a trial for England in the back row this season, scored three of the kind of tries we normally associate with threequarters.

Admittedly he was performing these feats against an Army team which is a pale shadow of its former self. The abolition of National Service has reduced the number of talented youngsters available.

But nevertheless, the way he showed up the Gloucester threes must cause them to reflect not a little on the way they are fulfilling their duties.

Smith opened the scoring and Rutherford, playing his least happy game for Gloucester to date, made it a goal. He also turned a try by Bayliss into a goal but narrowly missed converting fine tries by Peter Ford and Terry Hopson.

Hopson had another grand game. His half-back partnership with skipper Mickie Booth has never looked more stable and Hopson continued the good tackling and determined attacking which marked his game against Cambridge the previous week.

The teams changed ends with a 16 points deficit for the Army.

Although Gloucester could well afford to coast home, they continued to look for scoring opportunities. Smith crossed for two more tries – Rutherford converting one and even Ken Taylor, the indestructible Gloucester hooker, scored a try – after heeling against the head – which Rutherford converted.

SPIRITED FINISH

Thirteen more points would seem a demoralisingly thorough way of answering the Army's single penalty goal – kicked by their full back Williams in the second half. But the spirited Army twice broke through the Gloucester defences in the closing minutes to show that there was still a sting in their tail.

Blinkhorn and Colegate scored tries – the former's converted by Williams – when Gloucester's defences were wide open.

One can hardly blame a team for soft pedalling when there is a comfortable score on the board.

But they had better be more careful when they meet Bristol on Saturday.

JC