

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1965

GLOUCESTER BEAT BRISTOL, BUT LACKED GLAMOUR

GLOUCESTER 9 Pts., BRISTOL 5 Pts.

Gloucester's fourth successive win was a grim affair, a match in which no spark of enterprise showed through the grey uniformity of the play.

Thinking about the match 24 hours after the referee sounded no side, is rather like recalling the wartime days of austerity, days in which there was no glamour !

However, Gloucester must, I suppose, be congratulated for winning in a convincing manner and avenging their defeat at Bristol's hands earlier in the season.

Rutherford was responsible for six points. He opened Gloucester's account with a very long, very definite drop goal – in part compensating for a defensive error which had given Bristol the lead.

LINE INVIOLATE

Mickie Booth dropped another from a scrum in front of the Bristol posts and Rutherford rounded off Gloucester's scoring with a 35-yard penalty goal.

It is significant that Gloucester – despite an overwhelming territorial advantage, gained for them largely by impeccable touch-kicks from Hopson, Booth and Rutherford – were unable to cross the Bristol line. Winger, Mike Collins, was the only Bristol scorer and he only managed to get over after seizing on a Gloucester error.

Former Gloucester wing forward Garry White added the goal points to Collins's try.

In short the game was virtually deadlocked throughout and, though the tension engendered by this kind of match is enjoyable at the time, one has little to look back on in the way of incident; the result only was of interest.

Addition to Gloucester's armoury was Dick Smith – at centre !

He scored three tries in the last Gloucester game by making an extra three-quarter and plainly the skipper, Mickie Booth, was intent to keep him up with the threes by instructing him to drop back from wing forward in certain of the set pieces.

The play was spotted by Bristol, who followed suit and it came to naught anyway.

But it showed that the fertile brain of the captain is ever-ready to seize on an advantage – and Smith is, undoubtedly in the category of his most potent "advantages."

The "rest" – if that is the right word – of the Gloucester three-quarters met with little success.

BRAIN-WASHED

Bayliss had a tearaway break, Grove showed occasional resource and Foice again showed he is a far better man to have on one's side than against one.

But – in retrospect – it was a rather negative game in which it was evident that grim Gloucester were too intent upon holding on to their winning streak.

And Bristol, normally enterprising, were brainwashed into the same attitude of mind, only Blake among their backs showing some of the old open spirit we expect of them.

UNITED SETTLE DOWN SLOWLY

Gloucester United made a shaky start and were soon in arrears against Bristol United, who went on to win by 14pts. to 11.

There was quite a "local derby" atmosphere about this clash of old rivals on the Memorial Ground at Bristol.

Gloucester improved as the game went on and Bristol had to fight hard for their victory.

REAL DANGER

It was not until late in the first half that Gloucester came into the picture. In the second half there was little to choose between the sides.

The best Gloucester back was undoubtedly Vallender, a real danger to Bristol whenever he got possession of the ball. He was well backed up by Timms. Of the Bristol backs, Rodgers and Amor were the star performers.

Bristol's halves were better than Gloucester's pair. But two injuries to Ainge, when he had two short spells off the field, proved a handicap to Gloucester.

A GOOD SHARE

In the loose and in the tight scrums Gloucester got a good share of the ball. Brinn was particularly effective in the line-outs.

On the whole Bristol were slightly the better side, and it was in the early stages that they laid the foundations.