

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1931

GLOUCESTER'S DEVON TOUR

GLOUCESTER 12 POINTS - PLYMOUTH ALBION 8 POINTS

Monday's match with Plymouth Albion afforded the Gloucester team an opportunity of showing that the form against the Services was all wrong, and a well-deserved victory atoned in a measure for Saturday's disaster. This game was a triumph for Harold Boughton, who gave one of the best displays of his career, and won the match with a magnificent dropped goal from half-way.

A TRANSFORMATION

What a change was there my countrymen ! Between Saturday and Monday evening an astonishing transformation had taken place. It was difficult, indeed, to believe that the players who could hardly raise a gallop in the first match were the players who kept the Albion side busy from start to finish. Whereas the City forwards had been unimpressive, and individually undistinguished against the Services, each now displayed vigour and ability. Dr. Steele-Perkins in particular played a great game, and took a lot of pulling down.

ROY JAMES DISTINGUISHED

Indeed the difference was almost curious. James stood out as easily the best three-quarter on the field, and whenever he got the ball his opponents were compelled to concentrate all their energies in trying to stop his progress. One beautiful bit of scissors passing between him and Meadows in the first half thoroughly deserved a try, but unfortunately the pass was a shade forward. It was one of the smartest movements seen for a long time, and it had the defence hopelessly beaten.

The Albion had done well against Torquay on the Saturday, and were assisted by Cotman, who is really an inside half-back, but latterly has filled the post of full-back for Devonport Services owing to the regular players in that position having been injured. Cotman was liveliness itself in the first match, but at Beacon Park had nothing to spare in his duel with Gloucester's young scrum-worker, Fifield.

Harold Boughton was once more the player with whom Plymouthians are familiar – cool, resourceful and generally competent. It is rather a pity the first match was lost by so big a margin because it conveyed an entirely erroneous impression of Gloucester's proper strength.

THE SMARTER SIDE

Had they played on Saturday as they did on Monday there would have been precious little difference at the finish between the teams. Their victory in the second match was quite deserved as they were the smarter side, and tactically distinctly cleverer than the Albion outside of the scrummage.

Mills only of the home backs was comparable with Boughton, James, and Meadows.