

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1961

LUCKY GLOUCESTER

FEW IDEAS – BUT DEFENSIVE WORK SAVED DAY

GLOUCESTER 3Pts., MOSELEY 3Pts.

Gloucester were lucky to draw this match at Kingsholm on Saturday.

If the two packs were evenly matched throughout it was rare for Gloucester's threes to compare favourably with those from Birmingham.

One wonders therefore why the Midland club, who beat Coventry in their first game this season, did not put a large number of points on the Red and Whites.

And the answer, of course, is that although it was often scrappy and the tackling lacked precision, Gloucester's defence was equal to anything the sprightly Moseley backs could offer.

The Gloucester backs, had they played with the determination they showed against Lydney and at Cheltenham could have won this game for Gloucester.

SLICED KICKS

For instance if some of their heavily sliced kicks for touch had been booted solidly deep in the opening stages the Gloucester forwards would have spent more time in the Moseley half.

Hillier, Hopson and Booth were not particularly convincing in the role of saviour-by-the-boot early on in this game.

Moseley's centre, H. Knox, indicated with a cool kick under pressure that the visitors' backs were able to [word unreadable]. He scored a dropped goal and that was the only score of the first half.

The contrast between their intelligence and Gloucester's tedious cross-the-line play was marked more than once.

The second half was altogether better for Gloucester who now had the wind behind them. Despite the territorial advantage, however, only Osman, the Gloucester wing threequarter managed to break through and so score the equalising try.

STOOD AND WATCHED

Part of Gloucester's difficulty was the fine performance of the Moseley full-back, whose fielding was superb.

And too often the home team were content to stand and watch a lofted kick without following it up. Many scoring opportunities were lost through this.

UNITED START SLOWLY, BUT SUPERB IN SECOND HALF

MOSELEY UNITED 3 Pts.

GLOUCESTER UNITED 12 Pts.

Gloucester Utd. made up for their slow start in the second half of their game with Moseley United to take a convincing nine points win away with them.

During the early stages they seemed to be having trouble keeping the strong Moseley attack at bay, but after the interval they never looked back and completely turned the tables on their opponents in an incredibly fast half, during which the Gloucester team hardly put a foot wrong.

Moseley United were outplayed, outmanoeuvred, and thoroughly demoralised by the fiercely determined visitors' pack.

The break came soon after the restart when E. Stevens tore away from the covering Moseley threequarters, dashed across the home 25 and dropped a perfect goal.

Almost identical cross field movements, outwitting the Moseley defence, sent A. Murphy and B. Timms over for tries, but in both cases the strong cross wind carried the conversion attempts wide.

Timms completed the Gloucester score with a fine penalty kick from 30 yards out.

Moseley got a consolation three points when winger C. Smallwood dived over in the corner for an unconverted try.

JC