

THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1962

FOUR-MINUTE SPELL PUT PAID TO STROUD

STROUD 6 Pts., GLOUCESTER 14 Pts.

A four-minute period in the second half decided this otherwise dreary derby game at Fromehall Park last night. During those few minutes Gloucester piled on eight points to knock the stuffing right out of the Stroud team and clinch a 14pts.-6 victory.

Stroud began well enough but in the end had to concede a "double" to the rugged Gloucester XV who followed up their 35-0 win at Kingsholm last September by scoring two goals (one penalty) and two tries to Stroud's penalty goal and try.

For the most part, however, the 350 spectators saw little enterprise from either back division with both sides more content to keep their opponents in check rather than looking for opportunities that could have set the match alight.

THREE CHANGES

Gloucester fielded their selected team while Stroud were forced to make three changes – Dick Clutterbuck moving to stand-off in place of 'flu victim Mike Hughes, with Riches coming in at left centre and Peter Marriott replacing Davis as prop forward.

Both full-backs, Hillier and Sheen, playing against their former clubs, caught and kicked well, but perhaps the best display of the match came from Stroud's promising young wing-forward, Brian Taylor.

Here, there and everywhere, he constantly harassed the Gloucester backs and thwarted the visitors' few attempts to get a threequarter movement going by his fearless and determined tackling.

FIFTY-YARD RUN

The brightest part of this match was undoubtedly a fifty-yard break by Gloucester's Alan Holder, after only ten minutes' play, which led to the opening score.

Holder gained possession in his own 25 and, with a swerving-dummying run, outfoxed several half-hearted Stroud tacklers, to take the ball right to the other end. He finally slipped the ball to winger Peter Meadows, who had an easy task to run round and touch down under the posts.

Russell Hillier unaccountably missed the conversion.

NO MISTAKES THIS TIME

Sheen was just short with two penalty attempts for Stroud, but then Hillier made amends for his earlier miss with a beautifully judged 45-yards penalty, to put the Red and Whites 6–0 up.

Stroud hit back and, by the interval, had reduced the leeway to three points, with a try by Bill Workman. Gloucester got the ball on their own twenty-five, but Hopson muffed Booth's pass.

Dick Clutterbuck fastened on to the loose ball in a flash, and sent the Stroud winger over in the corner for a try which Sheen failed to convert.

Just after the re-start, Timms was inches wide, with a drop at goal, before a defensive lapse by Stroud led to another Gloucester score.

FUMBLED

The adventurous Sheen came into the threequarter line to make the extra man but he fumbled the ball to let Timms burst over in the corner. Hillier, with another grand kick, improved on the try.

Minutes later, Peter Ford plunged over for an unconverted try from a line-out right on the Stroud line.

Gloucester now began to throw the ball about a little more but Stroud were not to be outdone. They stormed back to the Gloucester line and from the umpteenth scrum infringement of the game were awarded a penalty in an easy position which Sheen duly kicked.

And that was that. Gloucester, with a weight advantage in the set scrums, were not an impressive side and Stroud, with seven victories from their last eight matches, left much to be desired.

HAD THE EDGE

The two packs were fairly evenly matched, but Gloucester's threes, although very unattractive in the main and far from being on top of their form, just had the edge on an even poorer Stroud back division.

Yes, a mediocre game that gave the fans little to remember.

Teams:

Stroud: Sheen; Workman, Pollard, Riches, Hogg; Clutterbuck, Simmonds; Tilden, Moore, Marriott, Pegler, Auchterlonie, Murphy, Stockwell, Taylor.

Gloucester: Hillier; Meadows, Lowe, Holder, Timms; Hopson, Booth; Herbert, Taylor, Townsend, Hudson, Long, Ford, Davies, Smith.

Referee: Mr. I. C. Saunders, of Oxford.