

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1962

NOT A GREAT GAME – BUT LYDNEY WELL DESERVED THEIR WIN

GLOUCESTER 12Pts., LYDNEY 13Pts.

Lydney must be congratulated for withstanding the Gloucester attacks during the second half of Saturday's opening game at Kingsholm.

The visitors thoroughly deserved their win – even if the home side did have the best of the game from a territorial standpoint in the second half.

But neither team can really be congratulated on the standard of Rugby. If one had not heard such glowing reports of Gloucester's handling in their first match at Torquay, one would be inclined to blame early-season butterfingers for the lamentable display.

It is significant that the best pass of the afternoon – from Dick Smith to Bob Smith late in the game – was forward !

TO A VICTORY ?

That pass, by the way, could have led to a home victory. Or could it ?

It seemed to me that (although the visitors opened the scoring) each time Gloucester scored, the men from Lydney pulled out extra reserves of guile and speed to re-establish their initiative. And they never wasted time either.

And this is more than can be said of the slow-thinking Cherry and Whites, whose defensive work – full-back Russell Hillier NOT excepted – was far too chancy; with risky passing in their own 25 a feature.

For once the touch kick could have saved the game for Gloucester.

CHARGED DOWN

The opening score by wing forward Graham Nash, was in many ways typical. He charged down a Hillier clearance kick and raced over for a try in the 10th minute. Fly-half Mike Probert converted.

Peter Meadows, the wing threequarter, replied with a lucky try for Gloucester, which owed its origin to Bob Smith on the other wing.

Smith passed to lock forward Tony Davies, who grubbed it ahead. Meadows just got a hand to it, but Hillier's kick hit the cross-bar.

He rectified this later with a nice penalty, but not before a fine try had been scored by the tough Lydney winger John Hampton. Probert converted and Gloucester were 6 pts. to 10 pts. down at half-time.

MUCH STRONGER

The home team looked much stronger in the second half. Richard Clutterbuck, at fly-half, had an extremely lively game, initiating attacks and generally justifying his selection. Likewise Gloucester's two strong centres, Ron Pitt and John Bayliss. They are a very tough team indeed and should be very useful during the coming season – perhaps they will both make the county team ?

Indeed, apart from Clutterbuck, they were the only two Gloucester backs who justified their selection.

Alan Brinn scored for Gloucester and Lydney's own second row man George Stait responded. Neither try was converted and the only other score came from Hillier's boot.

The two packs were fairly evenly matched in this game.

From Gloucester's point of view, Lydney's John Hampton was an enviable tower of strength throughout.

CONFIDENCE LACKING

But finally one must remark that neither team was tactically confident enough to make the game more than a mildly entertaining tussle.

Too often both team's players-in-possession chose to charge into a ruck rather than conceive a constructive plan of offence.

I should like to record here that Gloucester's Dick Smith, at wing forward, played a splendid open game, often supporting the home backs.

JC