

# THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1962

GREAT PLAY BY STROUD PACK IN TRIUMPH OVER GLO'STER

STROUD 9Pts., GLOUCESTER 6Pts.

While the game never reached great heights, and only rarely produced passing movements of note, Stroud's home game with Gloucester at Fromehall Park had many of the qualities of a thriller, mainly because of the tenseness of the hard, relentless struggle which was staged.

Stroud won by 9 points – made up by a penalty goal and two drop goals – to 6 points from unconverted tries, and although there was some bickering among spectators as to whether Mick Booth's pass to try-scoring Tony Osman was a forward one, and whether Mike Hughes' drop goal for Stroud passed inside the upright, there were few who were prepared to deny that Stroud deserved their success.

## MORE FIRE

They appeared to be the fitter side, a factor which enabled their outweighed pack at least to share the honours forward, while their backs displayed more fire and determination than their opposite numbers.

Generally, the play was too keen for an open game and, with both sides getting full marks for their marking and tackling, it was not often that any latitude for adventurous play was given.

It was, perhaps, the unflagging work of the Stroud pack which swung the match in Stroud's favour and the work put in by wing forward Brian Taylor must have impressed the County selectors who were watching.

There was a deep groan from Stroud supporters when, after a scoreless 16 minutes, home fullback Ieuan Sheen was wide with a penalty kick right in front of the posts, but he made full amends afterwards by his fine play and he saved a certain try 10 minutes from the end when he "ankled" Peter Meadows just short of the line.

## DESERVED

The Gloucester winger had broken almost clear of opposition from his own 25 and streaked for the Stroud line. Running across to overtake him, Sheen just managed to bring him down.

It was rather against the run of play that Gloucester took the lead in the 28th minute but the score itself was fully deserved. Mick Booth, the Gloucester skipper, broke away in great style in mid-field and ran 30 yards before sending Tony Osman tearing down the wing to get a try which Alan Holder failed to improve.

Gloucester held the lead until four minutes after the re-start, when Mike Hughes, who was often in the limelight with his raking touch-finders, kicked a grand penalty goal from nearly 40 yards, and 12 minutes later Brian Pollard dropped a lovely goal from 30 yards.

Gloucester hit back strongly and Peter Ford was only just prevented from touching down when he tried to forge over the home line from a loose maul.

It was after Mike Hughes had got Stroud's second drop goal with a split second decision on his part that Meadows made his great run, and it was not until the dying moments of the game that a passing movement near the Stroud line ended in Osman getting his second try in the corner.

The Gloucester skipper decided not to take the conversion kick, apparently hoping there was time to go for another try, but almost immediately the no-side whistle sounded.