

THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1963

GLOUCESTER OVERWHELM STROUD 35–3

STROUD 3PTS., GLOUCESTER 35PTS.

Gloucester swamped Stroud at Fromehall Park last night, and were full value for their big win, for which they had mainly to thank their lively backs, who never put a foot wrong.

But without detracting in any way from the merits of Gloucester's victory – more than ample revenge for their narrow defeat on the same ground a year ago – it is fair to say that it was a game in which they could do nothing wrong and Stroud could do nothing right.

That Gloucester should have won by such a substantial margin was in one way rather surprising because Stroud were able to claim an equal share of success in the set scrums.

Their hooker Archie Moore fully held his own in the duel with Nigel Halls despite Gloucester's weight advantage forward but, with the possible exception of Ieuan Sheen, who was operating at outside half, the home backs were never in the picture in attack and were bewitched, bothered and bewildered by the speed and greater cleverness of the opposition in defence.

BACKS TO THE WALL

With Terry Hopson and Mickie Booth attacking movements and all the visiting threequarters winning the limelight in turn, Stroud had their backs to the wall nearly all the game and although Gloucester were many times sent back by raking touch-finders by Russell Hillier, it was another illustration of Canute trying to keep back the sea.

From the kick-off Stroud were not allowed to settle down and although they managed by desperate defending to keep their opponents at bay for 16 minutes, they were 15 points in arrears by half-time and had 35 points chalked up against them before they obtained a consolation try in the closing minutes.

The scoring snowball was started by Terry Hopson who, following a scrum five yards from the Stroud line, dropped a neat goal and within five minutes Peter Ford had scored a try in the corner and Jeremy Taylor had landed a fine penalty goal.

NOT FLATTERED

Heavy Gloucester pressure brought a try by Bob Smith to be followed before the interval by a 40-yards straight penalty goal by Gary White which gave the visitors an interval lead of 15 points – a margin which did not flatter them.

Carrying on from where they left off after the changeover, Gloucester scored at regular intervals with tries by Tony Osman, Ford, Hopson and Smith all of which White converted with consummate ease.

A break through by John Alford led to Stroud's only score, the movement being finished by skipper Arthur Murphy who touched down wide out, Hillier failing with the long kick.

Teams :

STROUD: R. Hillier; D. Haine, G. Phillips, B. Pollard, G. Jones; I. Sheen, J. Spalding; M. Smith, A. Moore, C. Whittaker, P. J. Marriott, D. Auchterlonie, J. Alford, D. Pegler, A. Murphy (capt.).

GLOUCESTER: A. Holder (capt.); R. Smith, J. Taylor, J. Bayliss, T. Osman; T. Hopson, M. Booth; A. Townsend, N. Halls, J. Fowke, B. Hudson, A. Brinn, P. Ford, G. White, R. Smith.

Referee: Mr. M. H. Titcombe.

JC