

THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1951

GLO'STER TALE OF MISSED CHANCES AT STROUD

Yesterday evening's clash between Gloucester and Stroud at Fromehall Park was another tale of chances missed by the city club.

That a draw of three points each – a drop goal for Gloucester and a try for Stroud – was a fair result on the run of play, both sides doing an almost equal share of the attacking.

It was a game which produced many exciting movements, though not a great deal of constructive rugby, the strong cross-wind and slightly greasy ball making open play difficult.

With deputy hooker B. Lane getting Gloucester more than their fair share of the ball from the scrums, the club should have made more of their opportunities.

The fact that they did not do so was due partly to Stroud's close marking and excellent first time tackling, and partly to their own lack of finishing power.

HALVES IMPROVED

The Gloucester half-backs, Cartmell and Humphris, gave a better display than against Lydney, Cartmell taking the ball well and often getting the Stroud defence in a tangle by his clever running.

Several times, however, it was disappointing to see the stand-off half waste his good work by giving wild or ineffective passes to the threequarters.

Gloucester's back division came away with one or two nice movements but the handling of the centres was not too good, Sutton having rather an off-day.

Wing-men Charlie Crabtree and John Taylor had comparatively few chances, though Taylor came very close to scoring on one occasion after a long pass from Cartmell had started him off on a 40 yards dash almost to the Stroud line.

Although Stroud's scrum-half, D. J. Flynn, had only limited opportunities he played an exceedingly good game and his quickness round the scrum caught Humphris at a disadvantage on more than one occasion.

In common with Gloucester's backs the Stroud threequarters did not always handle too well but when they did manage to get going they showed considerable thrust.

FULL-BACKS SOUND

The two packs played dashing football in the loose and there was little to choose between them in this department, Hastings and Hodge being among the best of Gloucester's forwards and Farmiloe, Guy and Shill showing good form for Stroud.

Both full-backs, Hook for Gloucester and Curtis for Stroud, gave sound displays on the whole and kicked a good length.

Gloucester took the lead towards the end of the first half when Hook got a splendid 40-yards drop-goal from a wide angle, but after the interval quick work by Flynn, following a scrum not far out, enabled him to kick the ball over the Gloucester line and get the touchdown for an unconverted try.

In the first half Stroud's right wing K. P. Dyer – who also showed good form – had a try disallowed as he had put a foot in touch.

A draw was a fair reflection of the play though Gloucester's finishing was again disappointing.

GLOUCESTER: W. Hook; C. Crabtree, R. Sutton, J. Syme, J. Taylor; W. B. Cartmell, D. S. Humphris; R. Parry, B. Lane, J. Watkins (capt.), H. G. Wells, G. Hastings, P. Ford, R. Hodge, H. Hudson.

STROUD: A. Curtis; K. Dyer, B. W. Smith (capt.), A. Baimbridge, J. Smith; A. J. Moore, D. J. Flynn; R. Farmiloe, G. Guy, D. J. Solomon, C. Willett, H. Westlake, T. Shill, P. J. Marriott, D. Haines.

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