

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1951

KICK NEARLY SPOILED GLO'STER RECORD

Against the run of play, Gloucester's unbeaten ground record looked in deadly peril when A. Bainbridge, the Stroud outside-half, took a drop at goal five minutes before the end of Saturday's "local derby" at Kingsholm.

The home supporters held their breath in suspense as the ball headed between the posts, and then sighed with relief as it passed just under the crossbar.

It would have been cruel luck for Gloucester had this kick lost them their record, for they had had Stroud defending desperately for much of the game and on several occasions had done everything but score.

After 80 minutes of gruelling rugby in driving rain, the match ended in a pointless draw.

STIFF OPPOSITION

In the earlier part of the game, play was comparatively open, but subsequently the unfavourable conditions made constructive football almost impossible and the issue rested mainly in the hands of the two packs.

Though Gloucester's eight usually had slightly the better of the exchanges in the hard battle in the loose and showed a more clear-cut superiority in the set scrums, the Stroud pack offered stiff opposition.

Dennis Ibbotson, now on Gloucester's "reserve list" for the time being, was in good form in the loose and on two occasions his quick following -up almost brought him a try.

Probably bearing in mind Gloucester's highly successful display of the previous week, half-backs Davies and Cartmell did their best to keep the game open, but the appalling conditions proved a little too much for them.

Cartmell was prominent with some good runs, but several times he slipped and fell on the treacherous surface.

Good back play became almost impossible after the game had been in progress only a few minutes, and subsequently little was seen of the three-quarter lines.

CURTIS WAS HERO

One of the heroes of the match from Stroud's point of view was their full-back, A. Curtis, who repeatedly saved the situation when Stroud were hard pressed during the second half.

He fielded the wet ball confidently in the face of Gloucester rushes and drove his opponents back with accurate kicks to touch.

Trevor Halls, with less work to do, also gave a good performance at full-back for Gloucester.

He had a stroke of bad luck when a penalty shot which might have won the game for Gloucester struck the upright.

On the run of play Gloucester should have won this game, though Stroud put up stout resistance. The visitors' goal-line seemed to bear a charmed life during fierce second-half pressure by Gloucester's forwards.