

THE CITIZEN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 1952

FIGHTING LYDNEY XV SPRING SURPRISE ON GLO'STER;

EARN 10 Pts.-5 VICTORY

Still hoping to set up a record number of victories this season, Gloucester suffered a severe setback yesterday evening when a fighting Lydney fifteen defeated them by 10pts.-5 at Regentsholme.

It was an exceedingly hard game in which the exchanges sometimes became heated, but although the standard of rugby was seldom very high, excitement was maintained right to the end.

On the run of play Lydney merited their win – though Gloucester were without most of their regular backs.

The Lydney pack, with Miles always outstanding in the loose, held the formidable Gloucester eight in a manner which must have exceeded their supporters' wildest hopes.

And tackling like demons the Severnsiders just would not give the visitors' backs any rope at all.

HALL IN FINE FORM

The inclusion in the Lydney side of England skipper N. M. ("Nim") Hall at outside-half undoubtedly contributed in no small measure to his team's victory.

Although he did not get all that many chances, Hall gave a fine performance for Lydney both in attack and defence. He soon established a good understanding with scrum-half D. Voyce, and his tactical kicking in particular proved a great asset to the Severnsiders.

DEADLY TACKLING

Gloucester's marked superiority was in the lines-out – Ford, Wells and Watkins got in much good work – who brought their backs a useful number of handling chances, particularly in the second half.

Though half-backs Reade and Cartmell made great efforts to get their threequarter line away, the Gloucester quartet could make little headway in the face of Lydney's deadly first-time tackling.

Cartmell himself often emulated Hall's tactics by kicking for touch in order to gain ground.

In the set scrums hooker Cyril Thomas got Gloucester quite a good share of the ball, but too often the pack seemed unable to heel cleanly.

Lydney's quick-breaking wing forwards, Price and Charles, also proved very troublesome to Gloucester's young deputy scrum-half.

Territorially Lydney had considerably more of the play than their visitors and Gloucester full-back Trevor Halls – often hard pressed – gave a sound display in defence. On a surprising number of occasions, however, his kicks for touch failed to find their mark.

LYDNEY SOON AHEAD

Lydney forged ahead within 10 minutes of the start when BETTERTON gained possession from a line-out and charged over for a try about half way out.

HALL put the ball plumb between the posts and Lydney were five points up.

A few minutes later Gloucester neutralised this lead when CRABTREE, following up a kick ahead by Hudson, broke into the Lydney 25 with the ball at his feet, gathered and touched down for a try which HALLS converted from an easy position.

LEAD REGAINED

Both sides then went at it hammer and tongs and Lydney drew ahead again shortly before the interval.

This time MILES was quick to snap up a loose ball, when it cannoned off a player not far out from the Gloucester line, and dived over for a try wide out. HALL'S conversion was a beauty.

When the teams changed over it was obvious that Gloucester would have to pull something extra out of the bag if they were to get the better of the Severnsiders.

SUPREME EFFORT

Gloucester's backs now began to throw the ball about much more freely than Lydney.

But they could achieve little in the face of their opponents' bustling play and intensely close marking.

Shortly before no-side, amid great excitement, Gloucester made a supreme effort.

Threequarters Burrows and Blair came very close on the right and then Lydney supporters held their breath in suspense as the visitors forced two scrums five yards out.

Lydney heeled from the second scrum, however, cleared their line in fine style, and the game was won.

Over 2,000 people watched the match.

Lydney: B. Weston; A. Johnson, J. C. Morgans (capt.), D. Hughes, J. Fry; N. M. Hall, D. Voyce; C. Biddle, G. Carpenter, W. Callow, S. Betterton, J. Newlove, C. Price, N. Miles, R. Charles.

Gloucester: T. Halls; R. Blair, W. Burrows, G. Hudson, C. Crabtree;
W. B. Cartmell, B. Reade; R. Stowers, C. Thomas, R. Parry, J. Watkins
(capt.), H. G. Wells, P. Ford, R. Hodge, D. Ibbotson.

JC