

THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1952

GLOUCESTER WIN IN THRILLING RALLY

Watched by the biggest crowd seen at Wollaston Rugby Ground for a long time, Gloucester gained a thrilling last-minute victory over Stourbridge yesterday evening.

Ten minutes from the end Gloucester were five points in arrears.

And it was only after their pack had taken command during the closing stages that the visitors equalled and then passed the Stourbridge score to win 19 points to 14.

Well below full strength Gloucester soon found that Stourbridge were not going to be easy meat.

NOTABLE FEATURE

The high standard of back play produced by the Worcestershire club was, in fact, one of the notable features of the game.

Stourbridge were well served at outside-half by their skipper P. G. Stanley, and the three-quarter line had plenty of punch – particularly on the right where two brothers, R. Bland and S. Bland showed excellent form.

Gloucester, on the other hand, were not at their best behind the scrum even though the forwards won them plenty of the ball.

Bill Cartmell, suffering from a badly bruised back which nearly prevented him from turning out, was not his usual self at fly-half and the handling by the threequarter line was a bit disappointing at times.

APPRECIATIVE CROWD

In common with Stourbridge, however, Gloucester did their best to throw the ball about and keep the game open despite light rain during the first half – a fact which was much appreciated by the crowd.

Cambridge Blue, Gwyn Bevan had only limited opportunities on Gloucester's right wing, but impressed with one strong run.

A clever drop-goal by TERRINGTON gave Gloucester an early lead, and TREVOR HALLS – who did well at full back – soon added a penalty goal.

Stourbridge opened their account with a try by STANLEY, and Halls replied with another penalty goal for Gloucester – a real beauty from inside his own half.

Before the interval R. BLAND got Stourbridge's second try, and soon after the re-start, he scored again following a spectacular run.

There was a further shock for Gloucester when S. BLAND crossed for a good try, which Stanley converted, to make the score 14–9 in Stourbridge's favour.

Then came Gloucester's great rally and the equalising score, when Cumming cleverly broke away from a scrum and sent Gordon Hudson over for a try which Halls improved upon.

Almost on time a smart pick-up by Terrington near the half-way line gave Gloucester possession, and a well-judged kick by Ford was gathered by skipper Bob Hodge, who scored behind the posts. Halls converted with the last kick of the game.