

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1952

LYDNEY GIANT-KILLERS SHOCKED GLOUCESTER

Lydney Rugby Club are rapidly earning the title of "the Severn-side giant-killers."

After very nearly humbling Bristol at the Memorial Ground, last Wednesday, they went one better on Saturday by lowering Gloucester's colours in the opening fixture at Kingsholm.

Lydney's win by 17 points to 11 came as a complete surprise. But few people will deny that they merited their success.

In a game which was not particularly distinguished as regards the standard of rugby the lighter Lydney pack showed considerably more fire than the Gloucester eight.

They were quicker on the ball and their backing-up was first rate. Outstanding players included Biddle, Betterton and Miles.

Even when reduced to seven men after scrum-half Porter had had to go off injured early in the second half, Lydney's pack were still dominant in the loose.

POOR HALVES

Both teams endeavoured to keep the game open in the earlier stages, but though Gloucester never gave up trying, Lydney gradually came to rely mainly on their pack to force the issue.

Despite the Gloucester pack's "off-day," the city club might still have got the upper hand had they been better served by their halves.

But there was a serious weakness in this department and the back division as a whole was seldom able to get going.

In the latter part of the game Terrington was switched to outside-half and David Jones brought into the threequarter line, where he seemed more at home.

ONE BRIGHT SPOT

One bright spot from Gloucester's point of view was the good threequarter movement, which ended in winger John Taylor flashing over for the club's first try.

It showed that the line was capable of pulling something out of the bag when given suitable opportunity.

Gloucester's other try – also a good one – was scored by Jones after being moved to the wing. Halls converted one try and kicked a penalty goal.

Biddle (two) and Miles scored tries for Lydney. Fry converted one, and Weston landed two penalty goals.

A poor start by Gloucester but no indication of the club's real form. Gloucester have the potential strength to do immeasurably better than this.