

THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1952

GLOUCESTER AND STROUD DRAW AGAIN

STROUD 11 Pts., GLOUCESTER 11 Pts.

Local rugger fans are beginning to wonder when on earth Gloucester and Stroud will succeed in playing a game that doesn't end in a draw !

Yesterday evening, at Fromehall Park, their fixture – for the third time running – finished up with honours even. Gloucester got a goal, a try and a penalty goal and Stroud a goal and two penalty goals.

This time the clash between these two Gloucestershire rivals was a "local derby" with a bit of a difference.

There was plenty of scrambling play, it is true, but flashes of brilliance, which illuminated the game from time to time, and several thrilling incidents did much to compensate the spectators for this.

LATE RALLY

And from the Stroud supporters' point of view it was particularly satisfying to see their team rally to force a draw in the closing stages when Gloucester appeared to have the game in their pockets.

The Cherry and Whites, though much more dangerous than when they succumbed to Lydney, were still well below their peak form. Their forwards did not win enough of the ball, particularly in the set scrums, and their heeling was still inclined to be sluggish.

Welsh captain John Gwilliam, playing in his second game for Gloucester, was one of the city club's outstanding forwards – but his clever work was often wasted.

Skipper Bob Hodge and Dennis Ibbotson were among other Gloucester forwards who did well in the loose, while Henry Wells occasionally distinguished himself in the linesout.

BAD HANDLING

New scrum-half Billy Nield made a somewhat uncertain start but improved steadily as he gained confidence. He found Terrington with some well-judged passes and the two half-backs initiated a number of nice Gloucester movements.

The threequarters often failed to make the most of their opportunities, however, because of uncertain handling.

The Stroud pack stood up well to the Gloucester eight, but the Fromehall side lacked punch in midfield.

Among Stroud's best players were fullback A. Curtis, scrum half B. le Marquand, wing-threequarter D. J. Flynn, and forwards Marriott and J. R. Garner.

Stroud were first to score when Brookings landed a penalty goal. Then sustained Gloucester pressure brought a try by Gwilliam.

BEST OF MATCH

Soon after the re-start, Halls put Gloucester ahead with a fairly easy penalty goal, and then a good handling movement led up to Sutton scoring the best try of the match after a 30 yards run. Halls added the goal points.

A nice penalty goal from nearly 45 yards by Brookings subsequently improved the position for Stroud.

Five minutes from the end le Marquand whipped over from a scrum to score behind the posts. Brookings added the points.

NOMADS GIVE UNITED GOOD RUN

Outweighed, outplayed and outclassed by Gloucester United at Kingsholm last night, Stroud Nomads nevertheless defended stubbornly and made the home side play hard for their 17–3 victory.

Three tries in quick succession, two from winger Gordon Jones and one from Gordon Hudson, gave United a 9–0 advantage at half-time.

Ken Harper crossed for Nomads and then the result was in doubt until the final stages. Baimbridge, following a brilliant interception, touched down after a 70 yards' run, and Brumfitt, who converted, added a dropped goal to put the issue beyond doubt.

Hobbs, former Northampton player, gave splendid service from the scrum, and Brumfitt took full advantage, though they played behind a winning pack. Nomads only heeled from five scrums throughout the game.

In the forwards Gordon Hudson, Stower, Evans and skipper Ivor Jones were outstanding while for Nomads Cullimore got through a lot of hard work at scrum half. Harrison and Harper were the pick of the Nomads' pack.