

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1953

GLOUCESTER XV MAKE A FLYING START IN LOCAL DERBY, BUT –

GALLANT STROUD FORCE PACE IN LAST HALF

The succession of stalemates between Gloucester and Stroud was ended on Thursday evening when Gloucester beat their near neighbours at Kingsholm 14 points – 9.

A day's heavy rain had left the ground in a soaking condition and as the game progressed the field churned up more badly than at any time this season.

In the first half Gloucester overcame the bad conditions with a marked degree of success.

With their forwards winning by far the bigger share of the ball the Red and Whites showed lively form behind the scrum.

The half-back partnership of Billy Nield and Bill Cartmell worked well, and Howard Terrington was a master tactician in the threequarter line.

His judicious kicking frequently proved invaluable in helping to keep Gloucester on the attack.

DEFENCE OUTWITTED

Turner got Gloucester's first try after a 35 yards run in which he outwitted the defence by his speed and clever changes of direction.

Stroud were a man short at this stage, Phipps having arrived late.

Gloucester's lead was increased when HALLS landed a fairly easy penalty goal.

The home side continued to show plenty of thrust, and a splendid break through in the centre by Morgan sent HODGE over for Gloucester's next try, which was converted by HALLS.

BEAUTIFUL PENALTY GOAL

BROOKINGS replied with a beautiful 45 yards penalty goal for Stroud, but before the interval TURNER gained another try for Gloucester.

Though Stroud had rarely been in the picture in the first half, it was a rather different story after the interval.

With conditions underfoot now very much worse, Gloucester's backs found things less to their liking and some keen marking by Stroud – Brian Smith being a particularly deadly tackler – kept them much more subdued.

The Stroud pack had now livened up considerably and, with Dainty and Skill especially prominent, they often had Gloucester on the defensive.

During one of these attacks CLUTTERBUCK reduced the arrears with a try, and then scrum-half D. A. J. FLYNN – who had played a good game with limited opportunities – burst away with the ball at his feet to bring Stroud another unconverted try.

SOUND FULL-BACKS

Gallant Stroud, whose team was composed mainly of Old Marlintonians, were making a great fight of it.

But a few minutes before the end they appeared to have "shot their bolt," and renewed Gloucester pressure nearly brought the home side another score.

A feature of the game was the sound display given by both full-backs, Trevor Halls for Gloucester and Alan Curtis for Stroud.

JC