

THE CITIZEN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1953

LYDNEY MERITED FIRST DOUBLE OVER GLO'STER IN THRILLER

In one of the best and most thrill-packed Lydney-Gloucesters seen for many years, fighting Gloucester lost last night to a slightly better team by 3pts.-6pts.

A fine achievement by the Severnsiders, it represented their first double win of the season over powerful Gloucester in the 50 years these two clubs have done battle.

They accomplished it after holding their visitors to a pointless first half and then being three points down.

Their fighting recovery will long be remembered by the capacity crowd who thronged the ground.

Excitement mounted as the storming Lydney forwards swept remorselessly into the attack and sent Gloucester reeling back well into their own half. The Red and White shirts gave ground stubbornly.

COUNTER-ATTACKS

They counter-attacked and tried everything in the book, and twice wily Cartmell sent his threequarters smoothly away.

But Lydney had their tails up. Good as Gloucester were they were not good enough to hold Lydney, and intensive pressure had its just reward when fly half Brian Kear dropped a goal from bang in front of the posts.

Tension mounted during those last few minutes on the darkening ground when gallant Lydney were seen at their best.

BACKS TO WALL

Gloucester had their backs to the wall with a vengeance. They had one narrow escape when Lydney scrum-half Rex Porter sent winger John Fry flying down the touch line.

Fry – who had a good game – failed by feet only, but Porter burst into the picture again when his lightning follow-up caught the Gloucester defence napping and gave him a touchdown between the posts. Jubilantly he flung the ball high into the air to signal what was to be the match-winning try.

The kick failed – in fact it was never taken for Don Taylor made the mistake of handling after the ball had been placed by Kear.

So Lydney won and Gloucester will not begrudge them a victory they just about deserved.

LONG TOUCH-FINDERS

If anything it was Gloucester who had slightly the best of the first half, for Halls at full-back always kept them well up with his long touch-finders, and the Gloucester pack heeled quickly and cleanly from the set scrums.

In the lines-out Peter Ford and John Gwilliam were always prominent.

But throughout the game, and particularly in the second half, the fast, rampaging, Lydney forwards were difficult to hold with their controlled rushes gaining vast slices of ground.

The back row combination of Miles, Price and Charles were always in the picture, although the team and not individuals won Lydney the day.

Both sets of backs were frequently in action in one of the most open games ever seen between the clubs.

CLEVER PASSING

If the Lydney covering and tackling had faltered it would have been disastrous, for the Gloucester threequarters delighted the crowd with their fast, clever passing. Sutton was at his best.

Danger man John Taylor was closely watched and marked by his opposite number, John Fry. On the one or two occasions he did break away he dazzled Lydney with his brilliant jinking runs, and it was one such move which led to Gloucester's try.

He flew through the centre, the ball was smartly passed back inside, and while Lydney were still sorting themselves out, Turner had flashed over in the corner.

Penalty kicks throughout were long range affairs and both Don Taylor, for Lydney, and Trevor Halls, for Gloucester, just failed with some remarkably fine attempts.

SOUND SERVICE

Replacing W. Nield at scrum-half for Gloucester, J. Hobbs sent out a consistently sound service to Cartmell and shared the honours of his duel with opposite number, Rex Porter.

I would congratulate the two full-backs, Weston and Hall. They played well throughout and there was little to choose between them.

And Lydney skipper, David Hughes, showed that he can be equally as good a centre as stand-off half.

The toast must be Lydney, worthy winners of a grand, full-blooded, hard-fought game, played in the finest tradition.