

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1919

FOOTBALL

STROUD OVERWHELMED BUT PLUCKY

GLOUCESTER SCORE HEAVILY AGAIN

BUT GOAL-KICKING FAILURE CONTINUES

Gloucester were weakened again to-day for their visit to Stroud, Holford, Voyce, and Hall being engaged in the International trial at Twickenham, whilst Hamblin and Ayliffe were also unable to make the journey.

Welshman having recovered from the injury he sustained at Northampton last week, was given a further trial at full-back, and Millington was called upon to fill the vacancy in the back division.

Stroud started the season in a very unsettled state, but there has been a decided improvement recently, and the team's 9 pts. victory over Cheltenham, and the draw with Bath, clearly showed encouraging possibilities.

GLOUCESTER : G. Welshman; F. Webb, T. Millington, A. Hudson and W. Washbourn; W. Dix and A. Lewis; A. Comely, J. F. Lawson, J. H. Webb, C. Mumford, S. Smart, F. Mansell, N. Hayes, and H. Harris.

STROUD : G. Bingham; H. Bradbury, L. Irwin, Bayliss and W. Clissold; Watkins and H. Parker; G. Reynolds, G. Stone, Gould, A. Durn, W. Brown, N. Angel, Birt, and Wheatley.

Referee : Mr. J. L. Davis (Lydney).

THE GAME

Wheatley started for Stroud down the slope, and almost immediately the homesters were prominent with a rush which Welshman stopped just in time. Reynolds secured in the line out and opened play, but the backs failed to make the best use of their opportunity, and Gloucester found touch at the centre. Washbourn was legged with almost a clear field.

Stroud used their feet to advantage, and got away nicely, Hudson saving. Webb nearly got round, being bowled over in the nick of time. Gloucester were now on the attack, but the passing was wild, and a possible chance was lost. Stroud got away to the centre, where Lewis put in a clever run for Mansell to score, Welshman failing at the somewhat easy place.

Even and somewhat unexpected play followed, Stroud on one occasion kicking too hard and Gloucester conceding a minor. On the drop out Gloucester attacked hotly, Washbourn nearly getting through. Lewis tried a drop at goal, and Stroud touched down.

Webb then scored from a scrum, but Welshman failed at goal.

Gloucester were much too clever behind for Stroud, who, however, played pluckily, the forwards working cleverly to the visitors' 25. Later the Gloucester three-quarters came into the picture with beautiful passing, and Washbourn scored far out. There was no goal.

Resuming, Gloucester at once got on the attack, and from a cross-kick by Webb, Dix crossed and converted.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

 GLOUCESTER 1 goal, 3 tries

 STROUD Nil

On the resumption Gloucester early attacked with outside play, but each time the wing man was successfully stopped. Webb was again prominent, and Dix went over with a neat try, but failed at goal.

Gloucester continued to have the better of the play, the visitors being the cleverer all round. Smart, Hudson, Dix and Webb were frequently strongly in evidence, and Stroud had all their work cut out. However, they made the best of matters, and very pluckily stuck to their guns.

Hudson next scored from a scrum. Welshman failing at goal.

Gloucester had matters pretty much their own way, their forwards getting possession at will. Washbourn next scored from a line-out. Dix took the kick, but another failure had to be recorded.

Hudson ran right through and scored a beautiful try, which Webb converted.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ... 2 goals 6 tries (28 pts.)
STROUD Nil

REMARKS

Stroud were completely outclassed, the Gloucester three-quarters especially playing a brilliant game. Stroud were far below form, and their marking and tackling were often miserable.