

THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1984

A RARE DOUBLE FOR LYDNEY . . .

AS GLOUCESTER MISS THEIR CHANCES

LYDNEY 12 Pts., GLOUCESTER 8 Pts.

Gloucester started like lions and ended as lambs, once again failing to take their chances and conceding the double for the season to Lydney at Regentsholme last night.

Though Lydney had taken the lead with a smart drop-goal from full back Ian Wilkins after nine minutes play, the first half belonged totally to the Cherry and Whites.

The Gloucester forwards were in complete command and their control hushed Lydney's crowd, who have become accustomed to their own pack taking charge.

But there was to be no avalanche. Lydney's well organised defence and man-for-man marking nullified a blunt Gloucester attack. Their best efforts were thwarted and Gloucester's dominance fell away in the second half.

"We had our chances to be 15 points up in the first quarter. We must have won 90 per cent of the ball but missed our opportunities," said Gloucester skipper Gordon Sargent.

"Lydney came back very strongly in the second half and the pressure was on us in the last quarter. They deserved their win," he said.

Gloucester's John Brain enjoyed a superb opening in the game, his two handed catching enabling Gloucester to keep play deep in Lydney's half.

The Severnsiders' back-row had to work overtime to keep a check on scrum-half Steve Baker and Gloucester produced a series of attacks without ever looking really dangerous.

Taylor and Mogg tried desperately hard to find a way through, but old campaigner Brian Vine had the midfield sown up and with Carpenter, Jones and Davis tackling splendidly there were few clear cut chances.

Mogg eventually found a way through when a smartly won loose heel put him free on the blindside for an unconverted try.

The score sparked some life into Lydney's forwards and they began to win more of the ball for half-backs Paul Howell and Colyn Price to take charge.

Both players had excellent matches, Price giving an object lesson in line kicking.

A splendid Price touchfinder was behind Lydney's only try. Shoddy Gloucester line-out play saw Lydney's Keith Davis win the ball and slip over for a simple try. Price converted with a great kick.

Lydney were enjoying much more of the game in the second half and Price put them further ahead with a well struck penalty.

A scrambled try by John Gadd briefly raised Gloucester's hopes but the final 15 minutes were played in Gloucester's 22 with Gloucester doing well to contain the terrier like Howell from snatching a try.

MAN OF THE MATCH : Colyn Price . . . immaculate kicking.