

THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1954

GLOUCESTER LUCKY TO BEAT STROUD

GLOUCESTER 11 Pts., STROUD 8 Pts.

Gloucester were in a temperamental mood when they met Stroud at Kingsholm yesterday evening and took so long to wake up that their victory was very much a touch-and-go affair.

With only about 10 minutes to go Stroud levelled the scores at 8 points each, and Gloucester's chances of maintaining their winning sequence did not look at all rosy.

They were able to snatch a late victory, however, through a good try by vice-captain and centre-threequarter Roy Sutton.

From the spectators' point of view the game did not have a great deal to commend it, and Gloucester could hardly have complained if their visitors had succeeded in sharing the honours.

Apart from a few spirited individual efforts there was little sparkle from either back division.

POOR COMBINATION

A late change in the Gloucester side brought Howard Terrington into the outside-half berth in place of David Jones, who has a knee injury.

Terrington showed flashes of his old brilliance but his handling was none too sure – and from this point of view his partnership with John Hobbs was not altogether a happy one. Matters were not helped by the fact that Hobbs' service was not up to its usual standard.

Gloucester's threequarters did not achieve much success as a line because they failed to move the ball quickly enough and the centres were inclined to crowd the wingers.

As individuals, however, they all had their moments and Roy Blair – with comparatively few opportunities – was particularly determined on the left wing.

GIVEN CHANCES

With Stroud gaining quite a good share of the ball in scrums and lineouts, the visitors' backs were by no means starved of chances. But despite some strenuous work by half-backs Flynn and Moore, the Stroud back division never really got going. Their best threequarter was right-centre Ken Dyer.

Gloucester's pack may have been feeling the effects of having had four players in Tuesday's county game – for in the loose they often failed to match their Stroud opponents in liveliness. One of the home team's best forwards was their skipper, George Hastings.

Dainty and Asher were always prominent in the Stroud pack, though the former showed a tendency to offend against the revised scrummaging laws by failing to bind properly.

Stroud were well served by their full back Alan Curtis. And considering that it was his first game as full back for Gloucester, Brian Sibery did not do too badly either.

NICELY-JUDGED

Gloucester opened the scoring after quarter of an hour when Michael Baker landed a beautifully-judged penalty goal from a fairly wide angle.

Towards the end of the first half Stroud drew level through an unconverted try by Dainty, who led a foot rush at top speed and just won the race for the touch-down after kicking the ball over Gloucester's line. Honours were even at the interval.

Early in the second half a determined burst by Blair led to Thomas, who had backed up well, scoring a try when the ball went loose near Stroud's line. Baker added the goal points.

Ten minutes from the end a short punt by Moore enabled Dyer to dribble over for a try, which he also converted with a nice kick, and Stroud were level again.

Gloucester gained the winning points not long afterwards when Sutton gained possession about 15 yards out, after a kick by Hobbs, and ran determinedly to beat several defenders for an unconverted try.

Gloucester: B. Sibery; R. Amos, R. Sutton, M. Baker, R. Blair; H. Terrington, J. Hobbs; G. Hastings (capt.), C. Thomas, R. Parry, H. Wells, J. Varney, P. Ford, R. Hodge, D. Ibbotson.

Stroud: A. Curtis; B. W. Smith, K. P. Dyer, D. R. Matthews, G. Harris, A. J. Moore, D. J. Flynn; B. Haines, J. Fowkes, K. Harper, P. J. Marriott, N. Portbury, J. Fielder, A. Asher, B. C. Dainty (capt.).

Referee: Mr. R. Totterell (Bristol).