

# THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1955

## THRILLING FINALE TO GLOUCESTER'S WIN

### A TREAT FOR SPECTATORS AT FROMEHALL PARK

It was in the last 15 minutes of Stroud's home game with Gloucester that the biggest crowd of the season saw the most exciting play, but it made no difference to the result; a 13-3 win for Gloucester.

With this lead established, and assuming command of the scrums, they gave their backs the chance to show what they could do. A good service by Hobbs enabled D. Jones to come into the limelight and several times he had the Stroud defence guessing by his clever play.

Good runs by Baker and Blair on the wings also harassed Stroud but there was little wrong with the home side's marking and tackling and Gloucester had to be content with the points already in the bag. This was, however, Gloucester's best period.

In the first half they [were] kept almost entirely on the defensive, mainly because of the fast work in the loose of the Stroud forwards, who were far too energetic to give the cleverer visiting backs any scope.

The Town took the lead within three minutes when JIM TAGG kicked a lovely penalty goal, and they were unfortunate not to go further ahead when the same player missed another goal by inches a few minutes later.

### AGAINST RUN OF PLAY

On numerous occasions strong attacks by Stroud carried play right to the Gloucester line but grim defending kept them out and it was quite against the run of play when Gloucester took the lead just before the interval.

Then a clearance kick in the Stroud 25 was charged down and Hodge, gathering smartly, sent VARNEY over for a try near the posts which Baker converted with ease.

That they should have changed over in arrears showed that Stroud's luck was out, but the way they started the second half suggested it would not be long before they regained the lead.

With Sibery defending in [2/3 words unreadable] however, they were foiled and when play finally moved to the other end after a good run by Blair, the visitors went further into the lead.

Again they charged down a clearance kick and when the ball was punted over the home line HODGE, one of the outstanding players on the field, won the race for the touchdown.

With a lovely kick BAKER added the points and it was he who obtained the final score by kicking a 35-yards penalty with another accurate kick.

Although not by any means thrilling until the final stages, the game never lacked interest. For the most part it was a fierce struggle between the forwards, with the Stroud eight the more impressive in the loose.

The Stroud backs had their chances but they were too orthodox in their methods.