

# THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1984

PACK POWER SINKS STROUD

STROUD 7 PTS., GLOUCESTER 30 PTS.

Valiant Stroud met face to face with inescapable doom at the hands of a workmanlike Gloucester last night.

There was an inevitability about the whole affair.

Gloucester's superior power in the forwards and pace behind the scrum eventually told and the young Stroud team wilted as the visitors moved inexorably towards victory.

This will not be remembered as one of Gloucester's best performances and it was the game they really needed to have played before taking on Swansea.

There were some anxious moments for Gloucester in the first half when Stroud's enthusiasm and deadly tackling disrupted some half-hearted attacks.

But slowly and surely Gloucester's share of good possession increased and by early in the second half the writing was on the wall. By then the Cherry and Whites had the advantage everywhere.

Gloucester's rhythm was disrupted by the early loss of Richard Pascall with a leg injury. It meant Steve Mills moving to prop and Glyn Mann taking over as hooker.

Stroud's problems came later in the game when they lost Norwood, replaced by Steve Fowke and Bird, replaced by Lloyd Gardiner.

It was a game for Gloucester's newcomers to enjoy and former Gloucester Old Boys player Peter Wickenden was soon in the action, kicking penalties in the second and fifth minutes.

Stroud's Dave Strain had kicked a goal in the fourth minute, nicely illustrating the whistle-stop action of the first quarter.

Hannaford laid on the first try with a loping run from a scrum to send left winger Andy Richards racing away for a try in the corner.

It was an easy try for the former Lydney winger who will be a favourite among the Kingsholm fans, simply because he can do more than just run. He proved this when scoring his second try, finished off with a deft side-step off his left foot. Wickenden converted.

A set piece try for centre Paul Williams briefly raised Stroud's hopes but Gloucester were now in command.

Flanker Mike Longstaff slipped away for his second try of the season, replacement hooker Glyn Mann scuttled over and then Derrick Morgan cantered in for a try converted by Wickenden.

**MAN OF THE MATCH :** Andy Richards – two excellent tries for a perfect debut.

JC