

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1921.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER WIN HARD GAME AT PORTSMOUTH.

CLEVER PLAY, BUT CHANCES LOST.

SERVICES MAKE GREAT EFFORT IN LAST FEW MINUTES.

Gloucester made their second appearance at Portsmouth to-day, when they engaged the United Services team. Last year the City succeeded in effecting a draw with their opponents, but in the return at Kingsholm Gloucester won easily by 16 points to 3.

The Services side had undergone considerable change since the previous meetings of the rivals, especially at three-quarter, but the Davies-Kershaw combination was retained at half-back, and the English Internationals showed in the County championship match against Kent on Thursday that they are in wonderful form.

Gloucester had to make the journey short of Holford and Daniell, in addition to F. Webb, and after the City's experience at Oxford on Wednesday the issue was in doubt, it being felt the Services would have the pull in pace and experience behind the scrum.

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : A. J. Kerwood.

THREE-QUARTERS : W. Washbourne, S. R. Crowther, E. H. Hughes, and S. A. Brown.

HALF-BACKS : W. Dix and T. Millington.

FORWARDS : S. Smart (captain), T. Voyce, F. W. Ayliffe, J. F. Lawson, J. Harris, A. Hall, Major Roderick, and A. Wright.

UNITED SERVICES.

BACK : Marshall.

THREE-QUARTERS : Rayner, Fitzroy, Bradby, and Stephenson.

HALF-BACKS : Davies and Kershaw.

FORWARDS : Hyslop, Loriston-Clarke, Hardy, Andrew, Usher, Fricker, William Powlett, and Agnew.

Referee : Mr. Potter Irwin.

THE GAME.

Lovely weather prevailed, and there was an attendance of 2,000. Smart started for Gloucester, but the opening play was chiefly with the forwards. Gloucester secured an early advantage, but the City were twice penalised for scrum infringements. Gloucester got down through Harris, and later Hughes dribbled smartly, but Fitzroy gathered and sent to touch.

The forwards continued to have all the game with little advantage to either side. The visitors were prominent with some good tackling, which prevented Davies opening out, but later Hughes missed a pass from Dix. The Services took advantage and burst away with some passing, but Kerwood tackled grandly and saved an apparent certain try.

Subsequent play was in favour of the Services, who attacked with strong forward work. At length Kershaw set his backs moving, but Stephenson lost the ball near the line and Gloucester luckily escaped.

On the drop-out Crowther shone with a sharp sprint and kick, but the Services quickly repaired the ground and centre play followed. A magnificent rush by the City front tested the Services severely. Marshall was pulled down in possession in front of the posts, and matters looked ugly for the home side. From the scrum close in Dix passed out to Millington, and the latter sent to Brown, who just got the ball down in the corner. Millington failed at goal.

Hall received the ball from the restart, and passing back to Voyce the International got in a fine punt to touch at the 25. Strenuous forward play followed, ending in Davies putting in a sharp dash, but his pass was wild. A penalty kick against Gloucester enabled Marshall to send to touch twenty yards from the Gloucester line,

The City came away in good style, and Washbourne ran cleverly down the touch line, but was bundled out of play. Fumbling by the Services backs gave Gloucester a good opening, but it was not accepted. Brown, however, later dodged through cleverly, being only tackled a few yards outside.

Gloucester had another opening a couple of minutes later, Washbourne falling a victim to a low tackle when likely to clear.

The Gloucester forwards were outplaying their opponents in the scrums and were tackling smartly. Dix cleverly outwitted Kershaw several times. A bit of hard luck lost a try on the right, and then Hughes was nearly in after a clever individual effort. Gloucester subsequently passed nicely, and Lawson brought off a brilliant dribble, but kicked a bit too hard. Gloucester had the better of the exchanges to the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
GLOUCESTER 1 try
SERVICES Nil

Gloucester were clearly superior in the first half, and with the chances they had the City should have been three tries up at least, but things went awkwardly for them when near the line.

The Services restarted, but the City at once got on top, and Brown following up a kick by Millington took the ball and beat Marshall. He cut inside a couple of opponents who had got up, but was upset.

The Services worked hard and cleared from a dangerous situation with good footwork. Kerwood was hotly pressed from one desperate rush, but he gathered finely and punted to touch.

Millington changed the venue with good kicking, and then came a great run by Hughes, who cut straight up the field from a pass by Washbourne and swerved past Marshall cleverly. He raced hard for the line with Voyce in attendance. The centre tried to get there himself, and was tackled a yard outside. It was a gift of a try for Voyce, and it was hard lines for Gloucester to lose the score after such a brilliant effort.

Gloucester made splendid efforts to score from the subsequent scrum, but Dix could not break through. A penalty to the Services eased the pressure on their line, but they failed to cross the centre, Kerwood stopping them every time with good touch-finders.

The Gloucester forwards dominated the scrums and heeled smartly, and Dix was always beating Kershaw. A lovely round of passing saw Hughes bring off another fine run. He gave a good pass to Brown, but the latter cut inside instead of going straight for the corner. Hughes again cut through nicely, but Crowther just failed to get there. Gloucester, however, were good in attacking, and Dix feeding Millington sweetly the latter cut through and scored. Millington missed the goal points.

Gloucester opened out from the drop out, but a knock forward ensued when there was a possible opening. Later the City forwards again handled, but Ayliffe threw forward in trying to pass. The Services with good handling placed the City lines in danger, and some close work followed. Millington ran out and passed to Brown, but the latter punted feebly, and Davies gathering cross-kicked over the line, where Agnew was awarded a penalty try for obstruction. Davies placed a goal, and only a single point separated the teams. The last five minutes were desperately contested, the Services making a great effort to pull off a win. Voyce and Roderick were both damaged, but continued to play. Gloucester attacked brilliantly at the finish.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 2 tries (6 points)
SERVICES 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS.

Gloucester found themselves again to-day, and though the Services only suffered defeat by a solitary point, they were well beaten on the play. The City forwards played a great game, dominating the scrums and heeling splendidly. In other departments, too, the whole eight did well.

Behind such a pack Dix was in his element, and Kershaw did little in the way of stopping the Gloucesterian's service to Millington. The City accomplished some clever work behind, with Hughes the star player. The centre made several fine runs, slipping the opposition cleverly, but his best effort went unrewarded.

Voyce and Roderick were off the field for periods in the last ten minutes, and during this stage the Services struggled hard to gain the ascendancy, but Gloucester came again at the finish, and Washbourne crossed after a lovely bit of combination, but a forward pass was given.

Right at the end, too, Dix only just failed to work a try on the short side of the scrum.

It was a splendid performance on the part of the City, but as the game went they should have won by 15 points at least. However, victory was secured, and that was the all-important matter.

Next week : Gloucestershire v. Devon, at Torquay; Gloucester v. Coventry, at Kingsholm.

W.B.

GLOUCESTER A DEFEAT BREAM.

FORESTERS BRING A HOT PACK.

Bream were the visitors to Kingsholm on Saturday afternoon to engage Gloucester A. Both sides were well represented, but the Reserves were without Crowther, whose place was taken by W. Poole, from the Gordon League. There was a very good attendance.

Teams : –

Gloucester A : J. C. Collett; W. Poole, H. R. James, S. R. Allen, and N. Daniell; T. Gough and K. T. Burns (captain); C. Mumford, J. H. Webb, F. Mansell, M. Evans, E. Richardson, W. F. Warde, T. Curtis, and H. W. Collier.

Bream : J. Worgan; J. Wasley, S. Stone, B. James, and Fred Kent; G. Hancocks and R. Meek; W. Robbins (capt.), W. Preece, E. Ward, R. Worgan, J. Flavin, A. Jones, F. Moore and F. Yorke.

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis.

Bream set the ball in motion, and after Collett with a good touch-finder had put the home team in a good attacking position, the visitors carried the first scrum and worked towards the Gloucester line. They were quickly sent back, and after play in the Bream 25 the Gloucester forwards heeled beautifully.

Gough fed Burns, who ran well and then handed to James. Allen was the next to receive, and he gave the "dummy" nicely and cut through the opposition scoring a good try behind the posts. Burns missed the easy kick for goal.

Nothing daunted, the Bream forwards came away and dribbled to the Gloucester 25. They were checked by Collett, and the ball eventually went to touch within inches of the corner flag.

The home team quickly gained relief, but the Foresters' front rank were going great guns, carrying the scrums and working keenly in the loose; but they were not well supported by their back division, and several good openings were not utilised. Taking advantage of their opportunities, the Gloucester threes handled freely, but were indulging in lob passing and lost several chances.

An injury to A. Jones, who had to be helped off, placed the visitors at a disadvantage, and they were hard pressed. From a scrum in their quarter the Gloucester threes were nicely fed by the captain, and Allen notched his second try after another brainy effort. Burns was off his goal shots.

The venue was changed by the Bream forwards, who traversed the field with a grand rush. After Stone had improved matters the ball was dribbled over the home line, but the visitors lost the touch. The Foresters were next forced to concede a minor, and then they forced their way to the home quarter, where they severely tested the Reserves' defence, and narrowly missed scoring, Collett saving once when a score seemed certain.

HALF-TIME SCORE ;
Gloucester A 2 tries
Bream Nil

Bream were still a man short on the resumption, but there was a noticeable falling off in the vigour of their forward work. Gloucester were pinned in their quarter, and a scrum going against them, their line was at the mercy of Stone, who ran well, but knocked on.

An infringement gave Bream a good chance to kick a goal, F. Yorke making no mistake and landing a beauty.

Again the Forest forwards rushed to the Seconds' line, and only by a fraction of a second did Daniell beat them to the touch. Collett was playing a sound game at back, and by splendid touch-finding was doing a great deal to keep the opposing forwards at bay.

The home pack were still having their work cut out to hold the Bream forwards, and Gough and Hancocks were having a rare duel at half. The home threes were playing well, and Daniell put in another good run down touch, but could not quite clear the opposition. A very useful bout of passing by the visiting threes was terminated by a fine tackle by James, who brought down Kent when he was looking dangerous.

Burns was in the picture with a useful pick-up in the loose and a strong run, but he left his transfer to Daniell too late, and the ball went to touch at the corner. The line-out saw Daniell obtain possession, and after a sharp dash he scored wide out. Collett had a try for the goal points, but proved no more successful than Burns. Gloucester were pressing at the close.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 3 tries (9 points)
Bream 1 goal (p) (3 points)

REMARKS.

The outstanding feature of Gloucester's play was the splendid touch-finding of Collett, who quite surpassed his previous form. He was never at a loss in the face of fierce forward rushes, and found the touch-line with lengthy and accurate kicks.

The home back division all did well. Allen and James in the centre played smartly, the former putting in some particularly good work, and not neglecting to gain success when possible. Daniell, of course, was of great assistance. Gough and Burns had no easy task, the scrum half being considerably hampered by Hancocks, with the result that he was compelled to hand out some difficult passes.

It was in the front division that Bream excelled, and Mumford and his men had a rare task to hold them. Bream got the ball back more often than the home team, and also in the loose they were very warm. They did not, however, get the necessary support behind, the threes, with the exception of Sam Stone, being a moderate lot. Worgan was good at back, but not in the same class as Collett.

It was a good, open, sporting game, and was much enjoyed by a larger crowd than usual.