

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1922.

FOOTBALL.

NEWPORT WIN AT KINGSHOLM.

WEAKENED CITY TEAM'S SPLENDID FIGHT.

WITH FORWARD SHORT THREE-PARTS OF THE GAME.

The Kingsholm crowd assembled this afternoon with memories of that notable occasion twelve months ago when Newport brought to Gloucester an unbroken record, and met with defeat after an intensely interesting game by the narrow margin of three points.

The City team had been doing so badly lately, however, that few of their supporters were sanguine enough to expect a repetition of that success, especially considering that the home forwards, after their strenuous county game on Thursday, could hardly be expected to show true form.

Gloucester were weak behind, for besides Kerwood and Hughes, Dix and Millington were unable to play, Brown and Meadows figuring at half-back.

Daniell superseded Sid Brown, and B. S. Chantrill, of Bristol, filled the vacancy caused by the removal of Meadows.

Newport had a strong team, the only change being J. Collins for Reg Edwards in the forwards.

The attendance was only moderate.

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : J. C. Collett.

THREE-QUARTERS: N. Daniell, F. Webb, B. S. Chantrill, and T. Voyce.

HALF-BACKS: F. Brown and F. Meadows.

FORWARDS: S. Smart (capt.), G. Holford, F. Ayliffe, Major Roderick, H. G. Mountford, M. Evans, A. Hall, and H. W. Collier.

NEWPORT.

BACK: F. Baker.

THREE-QUARTERS: J. F. Rees, Harold Davies, Wyndham Jones, and T. E. Vaughan.

HALF-BACKS: S. Manship and J. Wetter.

FORWARDS: N. McPherson, J. Collins, J. Whitfield, Tom Jones, Mapson Williams, W. Sparkes, S. Skuse, and W. Williams.

Referee : Mr. J. Southby (Bristol).

THE GAME.

Gloucester won the toss, and played with the strong sun at their backs. The home team failed to return from the kick-off, but a fine dribble by Roderick and Voyce was saved in beautiful style by Baker, who sent to touch. Voyce again secured and sent to Webb, who tried to drop a goal, but his kick was charged down. He secured again, however, and after a sharp run sent out wide to Daniell, but the pass was forward. Newport came away with a sharp dash, but Baker was there and sent to touch.

Then the City backs handled again, but the visitors intercepted. They failed to hold the ball, however, and Daniell, following up, kicked to touch in the corner. A keen struggle ensued, but Newport eventually relieved to the 25-line, when Chantrill picked up and made a splendid attempt to drop a goal, missing only by inches.

Collett was now called upon and saved well, running strongly and putting in a good kick to touch. Immediately afterwards, however, he stumbled, and a rush to the Gloucester line by the Newport forwards looked ugly.

The attackers were penalised for off-side, and a good touch-finder carried play to mid-field. Gloucester were now severely handicapped by an injury to Ayliffe, who had to be attended by the ambulance men.

Newport now got the ball back, and a dangerous bout of passing ended at the Gloucester 25 with a muddle on the wing. Then Wetter was penalised, and Collett found the touch-line beautifully. Reviving, the home team rushed to the Newport quarter, Chantrill cutting through finely, but his pass to the wing was not accepted. H. Davies led a Newport rush, and the Usksiders had a wonderful chance, the ball going out to the left wing, where Rees was unmarked, but the wing man fumbled badly and Webb luckily secured and relieved.

The City came again and penetrated to the Newport quarter, where another penalty was given against the visitors. A scrum was ordered, and Newport eased the pressure. From another penalty Collett tried a place-kick from half-way, but a good kick fell short. Again Wetter was penalised, but from a tremendous high kick by Collett, Whitfield secured and dashed down the wing, evading one player after another until Evans, who had got back, bored him into touch. Newport had gained a big slice of territory, and getting the ball back there followed a movement in true Welsh style, Rees going over in the corner after a pass from Skuse, in spite of a desperate attempt by Voyce to floor him. Baker was unable to add the goal points.

On the restart the home pack got the ball out, but Wetter was too quick for Brown and tried to smother him. Meadows ran up and put in a useful kick to touch. The Welshmen now attacked resolutely, their backs making dash after dash for the line, but the Gloucester defence held out, Collett playing a really fine game. Another scrum in the home quarter demonstrated Wetter's ascendancy over Brown, who was again prevented from playing the ball.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
NEWPORT 1 try
GLOUCESTER Nil

Gloucester had put up a splendid fight in the first half, and were unlucky to be three points down, but they were missing Ayliffe very much, and towards the interval were in difficulties. On the resumption play was of an even character for a time, with occasional short breaks by the home forwards. The City got the ball back, and this time Brown fed Meadows, who gained a good slice of ground with a kick to touch.

The home forwards carried matters further, and then the backs handled beautifully, but Voyce could not get round the opposition. Again the Gloucester backs got the ball, Chantrill putting in a fine run and sending to Daniell, who was unfortunately taken by the heel when he looked like getting clear. Gloucester continued the pressure, but Rees cut in and ran strongly up touch until the Gloucester captain got him.

Gloucester subsequently had a splendid chance to draw even, Newport being penalised right in front of goal, but Voyce, who was entrusted with a very easy kick, made a bad mistake, and the opportunity was lost.

Following this misfortune the City sustained another; McPherson, who looked to be standing off-side, snapping up the ball at half-way and running clean away to score in a good position. Baker again failed to cover the cross-bar. Gloucester had been having much the better of the game, and it was very hard lines for Newport to get such a soft try.

A smart forward dribble by the visiting forwards was pulled up by their over-running the ball. The attack was continued with vigour, and after a couple of dashes for the line one of the Newport backs only missed by inches, being brought down by Collett.

Handling again the Usksiders crossed the field and lowered the corner flag – another hairsbreadth escape – following in the next minute in the other corner, Voyce carrying Rees to touch in a fierce dash. The City were in desperate straits when Wetter was again pounced upon by the referee; and Collett eased the pressure by finding the touch-line beautifully. Voyce was the next to help, carrying play to mid-field with a champion run.

The home team were unable to penetrate far, and were quickly on the defensive again, but while the Newport backs rushed for the home goal time after time, their play was ragged and they missed chances.

Webb, intercepting, made a gallant dash for the Welshmen's line, but he had too far to go, and being unsupported was pulled down. Chantrill next came into the limelight in a speedy get-back and save when the visitors had kicked down the field and a bunch of forwards were following up hard. A series of scrums right in front of the Gloucester posts were stubbornly contested, Manship in the end snapping up the ball and romping over with Newport's third unconverted try.

A moment later the crowd went wild. Chantrill secured and kicked over Baker's head, carrying on the dribble with Daniell right down the field, the wing man scoring a great try in the corner. Voyce failed to majorise from a difficult angle.

Collett was then called upon to save after Voyce had stumbled, and put in a good kick, which brought the match to a close.

RESULT :

NEWPORT 3 tries (9 points)

GLOUCESTER 1 try (3 points)

Gloucester were most unfortunate in losing Ayliffe so early in the game, for even with 14 men they put up a very creditable fight. It was at half-back where the City were weak, and it is quite possible that had Dix and Millington been in the field Gloucester would have reversed the result.

The forwards played a rattling good game. The scrums were largely dominated by them, and even after Ayliffe left they had a fair share of the ball, but Brown was quite outclassed by Wetter, who, although rightly penalised for off-side play on numerous occasions, was much too quick for the City reserve.

In the loose the forwards were pretty well matched, both sides carrying out splendid dashes from time to time. It would be hard to pick out individuals where all played so splendidly, but Holford, Roderick, Smart and Hall were continually in the picture.

Gloucester's three-quarter line was very much strengthened by the inclusion of Chantrill, who played a really useful game. He showed that he has splendid pace and a good knowledge of the game. In conjunction with Webb, who was in good form and was unlucky not to score, he formed one of the most successful centre combinations appearing in the home team this season.

Daniell had few chances on the wing, but his try was the result of fine combination with Chantrill and the clever use of his feet. Voyce on the other wing tackled resolutely, and did some sound work, but he was not really easy in the position.

The visitors' three-quarter line was dangerous all the time, especially the left wing, where Harold Davies and Rees took a lot of stopping, but as a whole they gave a very indifferent display, passing wildly at times, knocking on, and generally missing chances which, with careful play, would have yielded tries.

At full back Collett played an exceptionally good game. Only once when he stumbled and kicked the ball out of his reach did he fail. His touch-finding to-day left nothing to be desired, and he tackled resolutely. Baker also played a safe game for Newport.

To-night the City Supporters Club are holding a smoking concert at headquarters, the White Hart, Kingsholm, at which a splendid musical programme has been arranged,.

Next week : Cheltenham, away.

J.H.B.

GLOUCESTER A LOSE AT NEWPORT.

SIXTEEN POINTS TO FIVE.

At Newport. The scorers for Newport were Tutt, Channing, Stock, and Andrews (tries), Charlton converting two. Langston scored for Gloucester, Williams converting. There was not so much between the teams as the score suggests, though Newport were superior in the first half.

Gloucester were quite their equal after the interval, and several times nearly scored. Langston was the outstanding back on the Gloucester side, his defence and kicking being excellent. Gloucester also held an advantage at inside half, with the result that the Newport backs, who combined better than those of Gloucester, were rarely allowed to get going. Burns did well for Gloucester.

RESULT :

Newport A 2 goals 2 tries (16 points)
Gloucester A 1 goal (5 points)