

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1923.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER'S FIRST DEFEAT.

RECORD SPOILED AT ABERTILLERY.

A SEVEN POINTS' MARGIN.

Gloucester paid their first visit of the season to Wales to-day, when Abertillery were engaged on the latter's ground. Fixtures between the Clubs have been intermittent, but though Gloucester have generally won at Kingsholm, the City had yet to record their first victory at Abertillery.

With the team selected there were great prospects of the run of defeats on Welsh territory being checked, but changes late in the week upset calculations. In the first place Wring could not accept the invitation to play, and with Gough offering his services to Stroud, a new scrum half had to be found. F. Brown, formerly of Hucclecote and Gloucester A, and now at Swindon, was given a trial, but his form this season was an unknown quantity.

Forward, T. Coulson was unable to make the journey, and doubtful players were A. Hall and T. Voyce. Hall injured his right shoulder at Torquay, but wired his readiness to turn out if short; and the International was uncertain whether he would be able to get down from London in time. Hughes played outside half, and Millington centre to Brown.

Abertillery, who had victories over Cross Keys and Neath to their credit this season, had chosen a strong Fifteen, and naturally were very keen on capturing Gloucester's record.

Teams :

### GLOUCESTER.

BACK : R. H. James.

THREE-QUARTERS : N. Daniell, A. David, T. Millington (capt.), and S. Brown.

HALF-BACKS : F. Brown and E. H. Hughes.

FORWARDS : G. Holford, A. Hall, F. W. Ayliffe, S. Bayliss, J. Merry, H. W. Collier, P. Carter, and W. Hemmings.

### ABERTILLERY.

BACK : "Duff" Lewis.

THREE-QUARTERS : B. Elliott, H. Bates, S. Carter and J. Bird.

HALF-BACKS : W. Dando and Percy Williams.

FORWARDS : W. Hale (capt.), W. Morris, M. M. Evans, H. Phillips, T. Doeman, J. Fear, F. Greenough, and Saunders.

Referee : Mr. M. Moses (Machen).

### THE GAME.

The Gloucester team did not arrive at Abertillery till 3.30, and the game was started over half an hour late. Heavy rain during the night and morning rendered the ground on the soft side. The attendance was between 2,000 and 3,000.

Gloucester kicked off with the wind at their backs, but early on Williams broke away on the short side of the scrum and kicked to the visitors' half.

A free to Abertillery was finely replied to by James, but the home forwards, with good work, carried the game to the City 25, where the visitors were penalised, and LEWIS landed a nice goal. Thus Abertillery were three points up in five minutes.

Gloucester re-started, and Millington, Daniell, Brown and James in turn gained ground with useful kicks. For fielding the ball off-side an Abertillery man was penalised, and from a good position MILLINGTON equalised the scores with a good goal.

The play on the restart favoured Abertillery, who were strong forward and used their feet well. Daniell checked cleverly with a nice touch-finder, but the home backs attacked with passing, Brown bringing down Elliott well. A wild pass by Brown looked dangerous for Gloucester, as James was tackled directly he received. The full back threw to Daniell, who just got the ball away in time.

Gloucester gained ground with good kicking, but Abertillery continued to do most of the attacking. The forwards heeled well, and the backs handled smartly, Williams doing capital work.

Millington and Hughes had now changed places, but Gloucester were not shaping any too well. From a punt down by Brown, Lewis received and, running round, started passing. The ball went right across to Bird, who was pulled down on the quarter-line. From this point Abertillery made a sharp attack, but the City saved.

The City cleared from a dangerous position with a kick by Millington, but immediately the home backs came along with clever passing, which only just failed to score. Gloucester were outclassed just now, and Williams was continually breaking away with strong bursts. From one of these he dropped for goal, but the ball hit the cross-bar.

MORRIS, however, followed up, and fielding on the bounce scored near the posts. Lewis added the extra points, and Abertillery were deservedly ahead again.

On the resumption the Abertillery forwards showed up with some magnificent footwork, and only a great save by Carter, who had got back, prevented a try.

All round Abertillery proved their superiority, the forwards being quick and clever and the backs excelling in combined work. Brown was outshone at scrum half, and could do little with Dando, who opened out very smartly.

Gloucester at length got in one round of passing, but David was collared in trying to cut through. Gloucester did better after this, and attacked, but failed to score.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

ABERTILLERY ..... 2 goals (1p)

GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal (p)

The game was resumed without a break, and from the first scrum Abertillery opened out, but a bad pass to the wing spoiled the movement. Play was contested in the City half until Hughes made headway with a useful kick to touch. Twice in succession the home forwards heeled, but the passing broke down.

Some strenuous work followed, the Gloucester forwards getting away with a splendid rush. Lewis, however, fielded from the goal and punted to James well down the field. Hughes just after was prominent with a good tackle of Bates which upset a promising movement of the home backs. Forward bursts kept Gloucester on the defensive until a penalty, taken by Millington, shifted play to the centre.

Here the game operated for a few minutes until Millington, after being collared, shook himself free, and a bout of handling followed. David fed Daniell, who raced down the wing and re-passed, but the centre was immediately tackled. A dashing forward burst by Morris took Abertillery back, and Gloucester were forced to concede a minor.

The drop-out brought no relief to Gloucester, but Abertillery were not showing such good form as in the first half. Millington recovered a mistake, cleared, and got in a kick half the length of the ground. The home team retaliated, but the City captain, with a short run and punt, sent the ball past Lewis. The latter was well tackled, but the movement stopped.

Here ensuing play was fast and exciting, the Gloucester forwards putting in some dashing work, Carter being very noticeable. From one combined effort Abertillery were hard pressed, and a cross-kick put Daniell in possession. The wing man, however, was pounced upon before he could get away, and though he let the ball go, David just failed to keep it out of touch.

Matters looked promising for Gloucester for a few minutes, but the City were beaten off, and play was transferred to the opposite end. Here Abertillery made desperate efforts, and fumbling in front of the City goal allowed EVANS to pick up and score, for Lewis to convert. Abertillery now led by ten points – a winning advantage with the game well on.

Gloucester showed up strongly on the resumption, Hughes dribbling through nicely, but Williams saved. The City benefitted by the aid of a free-kick, but did not gain much. James earned applause for a brilliant pick-up and clearance kick from the feet of the home forwards, but Abertillery returned to the attack.

It was hard, keen, football, but Gloucester could not gain an opening. Once Brown dodged through and passed, but Daniell could not do anything. Play to the end was keenly contested, but there was no more scoring.

#### RESULT :

ABERTILLERY ..... 3 goals (1p) (13 pts.)

GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal (p), 1 try (6 pts.)

#### REMARKS.

The record is gone, and on the play Abertillery well deserved their success. Gloucester were a well-beaten side in the first half, but showed a great improvement on the change of ends. They were, however, never really on top at any point in the game. Their forwards were good in the scrum and heeled well, whilst they also did capitally behind the scrum.

Gloucester's best work was mainly individual, David's try at the finish was a fine effort, but it was only occasionally that the visiting backs were served. James did capitally at full back, and held his own well. Brown was not well served by the forwards, and he had a very exciting time in looking after Dando.

The latter combined beautifully with Williams, who was very smart in attack, cutting through and beating the defence cleverly.

Abertillery's triumph was greeted with great enthusiasm.

## GLOUCESTER A v. RUARDEAN.

### CITY RESERVES PILE UP A BIG SCORE.

Ruardean, who fielded at full strength, formed the opposition for Gloucester A at Kingsholm this afternoon. The home team were disorganised in the half-back position, a new pair, Joe Rea and W. Hogg, being tried. The match commenced in pouring rain before a small attendance.

Teams : –

Gloucester A. – A. Manns; R. N. Loveridge, R. B. Miller, F. Meadows, and S. Crowther; Joe Rea and W. Hogg; F. Mansell, S. Smart, A. Rea, J. Webb, W. Rose, A. Manns, E. Curtis, and I. Armstrong.

Ruardean. – A. E. Bishop; W. James, N. Russell, C. James, and A. Martell; A. Watkins and W. Reid; H. Meek, L. Meek, J. Malsom, R. Malsom, E. Knight, C. Watkins, and E. Reid.

Referee : Mr. Lawrence, Cheltenham.

The visitors kicked off, but Gloucester immediately set up an attack which took them to the Ruardean 25. Here the visitors were penalised, but Miller's kick for goal did not rise high enough. The Foresters in turn visited the home quarter, but they were quickly evicted, Manns putting in some good kicks to touch. Coming again into Ruardean territory, Miller and Crowther put in a useful dribble, and following up smartly the latter scored a try, which Manns just failed to convert.

The wet ball was very difficult to handle, but Ruardean made good use of their feet and did some good attacking in the loose. Hereabouts play was of an even character, and both sides were penalised for scrum infringements at midfield. The work at the base of the scrum was not clean, and it was rarely that Rea was able to open up. With loose footwork the City again penetrated to the Foresters' quarter, and Manns had an unsuccessful shot for goal from a penalty. The visitors were not to be penned in, however, and their forwards again carried the game into Gloucester territory. Then the home three-quarters were set properly into motion by Hogg, who cut through nicely and sent along the line to Loveridge, who, however, was unable to run clear.

Gloucester now had a very narrow escape, and a series of blunders ended in the ball being passed back to Manns nearly on the home line. The back missed it, and there was a dash for the touch, which Manns managed to secure, and thus prevented a score. Ruardean narrowly missed points from a penalty immediately afterwards. On the restart the City forwards rushed to the Ruardean end, where the ball was kicked back to Manns, who dropped a beautiful goal from a good distance out.

Seven points down, the visitors again came away with a rush and besieged the home line in a most dangerous manner. The defence, however, held, and the City came away with good loose footwork. A further try came to Gloucester through Miller, who ran over after a very fine passing movement initiated by Rea and carried on successfully by Hogg and Meadows. Manns converted.

HALF-TIME :

Gloucester A ..... 2 goals (1d), 1 try  
Ruardean ..... Nil

On the resumption Ruardean heeled well from a scrum, and Reid punted down, but failed to find touch. The visiting forwards persevered, and maintained play in the home territory for some time. Manns was called upon to withstand a determined rush, and held manfully to the ball until relieved. Still Gloucester were unable to free themselves from the Foresters' attack, which was of a rugged nature, and did not look like penetrating the Gloucester defence.

Subsequently Gloucester worked free, and Crowther put in a fine run down the wing. He was pulled up, but Meadows dribbled on, and a score looked likely, but Bishop got back and conceded a minor. Gloucester were not long deprived of further points, for after a useful dribble by Miller there was a melee on the line, Rose falling over with a try. Mann's kick failed to cover the cross-bar.

Then came the best try of the afternoon. The Gloucester forwards heeled well, and Rea served Hogg, who sent to Miller. Crowther received from Miller, and after a rattling good run down the wing returned to Miller at the right moment, and the inside right ran over and planted near the posts. Joe Rea this time took the kick, but failed.

The Ruardean defence had weakened greatly, and they had difficulty in warding off further Gloucester attacks. They made one incursion into the home quarter, but it was a loose movement and lacked sting. The visitors were again heavily pressed, and after a useful three-quarter movement Meadows put Loveridge in with a try which Manns failed to improve upon.

The next score came also to Loveridge, who received from Meadows, and executed a much-applauded corkscrew run which beat two opponents cleanly. Miller failed to convert.

The visitors had gone all to pieces now, and a moment after the restart the home threes were again in motion, and Miller ran in with a try. Manns failed.



It was now a procession of tries, and Loveridge, after another fine run, added three more points, Manns goaling.

Just before the whistle Ruardean woke up, and after a loose forward rush F. Meek opened their account with a try, which went unconverted, the kick being charged down.

This was a flash in the pan, and Crowther scored a further try just on time, which Miller failed to improve upon.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 3 goals (1d), 7 tries (35 pts.)  
Ruardean ..... 1 try (3 pts.)

REMARKS.

As the score indicates, Ruardean were well beaten in every department. Their forwards were not so bad in the loose, and managed in the early stages to prevent Gloucester heeling. Behind the scrum they were overwhelmed, and while their backs were unable to do anything themselves they were also unable to hold the City backs, who in the second half played a fine open game, and passed wonderfully well. The home forwards played excellent football in the loose, and, when they settled down, also did well in the scrums. Rea and Hogg made a useful substitute pair, Hogg being particularly smart and dashing.

It serves no useful purpose to differentiate between three-quarters who combined so well as did the home threes to-day; and I will only say that they played a really good game, and deserved all the points scored. Manns also did well at back, except for goal kicking.