

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1924.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER'S NARROW VICTORY.

WELL-DESERVED SUCCESS AT PLYMOUTH.

MILLINGTON'S FINE WINNING KICK.

For their Devon tour, which opened this afternoon at Beacon Park, where Plymouth Albion were engaged, Gloucester were unfortunately unable to command anything like a full team. Collins, Hughes, Voyce, Bayliss, Coulson and Collier were all unable to make the trip, and the Club had to go outside for assistance. Cinderford having no match, the services of Milliner (half-back), Weaver and Carpenter were secured, the other places being filled by A teamers.

Gloucester won the first match of the season at Kingsholm by 13 points to nil, but with the disorganised side on tour the City could hardly hope to repeat the triumph, for Plymouth possess a splendid home record and on Wednesday made a draw with Cardiff.

The City players made the journey overnight, and during the week-end made their headquarters at the Albion Hotel.

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : R. James.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. A. Brown, L. E. Saxby, T. Millington (capt.), and S. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS : R. Milliner and F. Meadows.

FORWARDS : Phelps, F. Ford, F. Ayliffe, P. Carter, J. F. Seabrook, Carpenter, E. Triggs-Herbert, and S. Weaver.

PLYMOUTH.

BACK : E. G. Butcher (captain).

THREE-QUARTERS : W. Glanville, F. A. Wood, V. G. Lewis, and W. R. Syms.

HALF-BACKS : W. A. Hutchings and H. G. Hosking.

FORWARDS : W. H. Wright, F. W. Sanders, J. Boddy, J. Hanley, L. R. Stephens, C. Stanbury, R. Sparkes, and G. Gunner.

Referee : Mr. Doddridge (London).

THE GAME.

The weather was cold, and a strong, gusty wind blew down the ground, making conditions anything but pleasant for spectators or players. The attendance reached between 3,000 and 4,000.

Gloucester opened the game, but early on failure to field by their backs allowed Plymouth to get right under the goal. Here Hanley picked up, and passing to WOOD the latter scored easily within two minutes of the kick-off. Hanley converted.

This was a bad start for the City, but another score followed very quickly. Weak tackling saw the Albion well on the attack, but they were pulled up in time for off-side. However, the City were penalised, and HANLEY placed a goal, giving Plymouth an eight points' lead in less than five minutes.

Restarting, Gloucester had several free kicks, but could do nothing against the erratic wind. Plymouth twice handled cleverly on the resumption, but Syms' cross-kick was well taken by James.

Loose forward work by Gloucester brought play to midfield, where Milliner opened out. Saxby ran strongly, but Millington missed the pass, and Albion dribbled away back.

Gloucester came with another good movement, but the passing broke down with Crowther nicely placed. A free to Plymouth saw Butcher find touch beautifully in the corner, and Gloucester were in danger.

Weaver led the visitors out, and later Milliner and Meadows made headway with a good dribble. The Gloucester forwards more than held their own in some close exchanges, but off-side play by Milliner gave Albion a free, and Butcher kicked well up the field. Play was very scrappy, the wind accounting for many mistakes.

Gloucester were playing much stronger, and James with a clever move started Saxby going, the latter running well and passing to Brown. The wing man, however, was upset by Butcher. The City struggled hard for a try, but missed a good opening. Wood later punted out of danger when hard pressed.

Subsequent play was keen and hard, Gloucester working better together. From smart work by Milliner and Meadows, Brown ran and cross-kicked. SAXBY came along and, gathering nicely, beat the defence in fine style and scored a glorious try. Millington's shot for goal hit the upright. The City well deserved to score, for they had worked well.

Resuming, Albion had slightly the better of the play, Syms being prominent with a smart dash. Gloucester broke away from a line-out, Carter being to the fore, and Saxby with a lovely touch-finder sent to the Plymouth 25. Here some keen exchanges were witnessed, ending in Albion clearing to mid-field.

The Gloucester backs here broke away, but Brown was upset after taking a difficult pass. Plymouth cleared from an awkward position with a well judged kick from a mark. Albion lost Syms, injured in a tackle by Weaver, but they attacked strongly. Gloucester, however, defended well, and there was no further score before the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
PLYMOUTH ALBION 2 goals (1p)
GLOUCESTER 1 try

But for that bad spell in the opening five minutes, Gloucester had performed remarkably well, for the wind had been a big factor in Plymouth's favour.

Syms returned on the restart, and play opened in favour of the City. A couple of penalties aided Plymouth, but Crowther kicked back to near the line, where Butcher was collared in possession.

Matters looked ugly for the home team, but the defence held, and useful kicks eased the pressure. From more loose work Milliner picked up and, handing off an opponent, reached Butcher, when he passed to Crowther, but with the wing man over the line the whistle went for a forward pass – extremely hard lines for the visitors.

Gloucester attacked strenuously, and from a scrum close in CROWTHER scored in the corner. Millington missed the goal, and the score was eight points to six – a very interesting position.

On the restart Milliner placed Gloucester well down with a nice kick, and the visitors were soon busy on their opponents' line. Weaver was nearly over once, a scrum being ordered five yards out.

Plymouth had a hot time in the next few minutes, but relief came by touching down. Following the drop-out, Saxby brought off another dashing run, but stumbled and was tackled. Millington next distinguished himself with a clever run-through, which took him close to the line. From a scramble Weaver gathered and crossed the line, but the referee ruled for a minor – a decision that was unaccountable. There was some strenuous forward work following the drop-out, and some desperately keen tackling.

Play was at mid-field for some few minutes, with little advantage to either side. Carter at length gave Gloucester an advantage. The position, however, was lost through a mistake in handling, and the centre was again the venue.

Both sets of backs were active at times, but the movements did not finish well, the ball being difficult to handle. It was a keen struggle, but lacking in brilliant incidents.

Strong runs by two Albion forwards enabled the home side to reach the Gloucester quarter for the first time this half, but they were quickly beaten back. Milliner checked the home forwards cleverly, and then from a high punt by James the Albion conceded a minor. From the drop-out MILLINGTON made his mark, and with a wonderful kick from five yards inside his own half landed a goal amidst loud applause. This gave Gloucester a point lead – well deserved in every way.

Plymouth restarted, and amidst great excitement almost scored from the kick-off. Later they were awarded a penalty, a good shot just failing. Gloucester had an anxious couple of minutes, but eventually Millington cleared.

Gloucester had the best of the game to the end.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (m) 2 tries (9 pts.)

PLYMOUTH 2 goals (1p) (8 pts.)

REMARKS.

Gloucester thoroughly deserved their win on the play, for they had considerably the better of the game territorially. Millington's mark goal which won the game was one of the finest kicks, notwithstanding that he was assisted by the wind.

The Gloucester forwards played a keen, vigorous game, and were the better pack all round. At half, Milliner and Meadows were inferior to the home pair.

The wind caused many mistakes in handling, but there were some splendid solo runs, Saxby doing finely for the City.

GLOUCESTER A v. LYDNEY A.

Considerable interest was taken in the match at Kingsholm this afternoon between Gloucester A and Lydney A, as the Lydney Reserves have been going strongly this year, and it was expected they would test Gloucester A to the uttermost. Unfortunately they brought a weak team owing to the calls of their Firsts. There was a good attendance despite the stormy weather.

Teams : –

Gloucester A. – S. Williams; R. Loveridge, E. Hughes, P. Hogg, and W. Fisher; A. Hobbs and J. Rea; F. Mansell (capt.), A. Rea, T. Coulson, S. Bayliss, J. Hemmings, W. Rose, E. Comley, and E. Curtis.

Lydney A. – N. Remnant; F. Imm, W. Richards, E. Miles (capt.), and E. Powell; H. Wickson and F. Richards; H. Jones, T. Parry, J. Parry, H. Hoskins, P. Brice, J. Prosser, B. Box, and F. Powell.

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis.

Lydney A started the game, but the home team quickly penetrated to their 25, where a pretty round of passing ended in Loveridge being grassed. Continuing to pass, the City gave Lydney an anxious time for a few moments, but relief came with a spectacular dribble, which took play down to Williams. The home back saved splendidly, and put in a kick under pressure, which found touch near the half-way line.

Gloucester again gave the ball air, and Lydney were quickly on the defensive. After several attempts and some good work by Hobbs, the forwards burst to the visitors' line, where Curtis fell over with a try, which Williams made a poor effort to convert.

The Tinplaters failed to hold the City on the restart, and their line was subjected to a sharp attack by the home backs, who passed well.

Loveridge made a good attempt to pass Remnant, but the full-back put in a good tackle. Obtaining again a moment later, Loveridge ran round in spectacular fashion, but when in front of the posts he tried to drop a goal, but failed to raise the ball.

Gloucester were having all the game, but the visitors put up a keen defence, and the City were unable to finish off their attacks. Then came a fine run by Loveridge, who punted when opposed by E. Powell. Hogg gathered, and had a clear run in, but was pulled up, although he was obviously not off-side.

Another score came to Gloucester, this time through Fisher, who ran over in the corner after a pleasing handling display by the backs. The position was too difficult for Williams to convert.

Lydney played up better now, and a nice forward dribble carried the game to the home 25, but a forward who had gathered passed when he had the line at his mercy, and an unrivalled chance was missed.

The home backs were passing splendidly time after time, but the Foresters continued to put up a good defence. Four in the front in a scrum led to a penalty against Gloucester but the relief was only temporary.

Now and again Lydney forwards broke away, but they found Williams ready, the Gloucester full-back doing some excellent work, finding touch with length and accuracy. Loveridge led the Lydney forwards a spectacular wild goose chase across the field, and in the end found touch well down.

Hughes cut out the opening for the next try with a characteristic dodgy run, Hogg taking a pass from him and sending to Fisher, who ran over in the corner, the kick failing. In trying to stop Fisher Remnant ran into the corner flag, and was knocked out.

Half-time :

Gloucester A 3 tries

Lydney A Nil

Lydney A resumed without Remnant. Gloucester at once attacked, but lost the position through being penalised again for four men in the front line of the scrum. The visitors continued to oppose a sturdy defence to the City attacks, and were marking the home backs much more successfully. Hughes did some smart things, but he found the Lydney men harder to dupe than in the first half.

After a nice passing movement Loveridge looked as though he was clear, but he was pulled down from behind. At this point Remnant returned, and with this additional strength Lydney ejected Gloucester from their territory. With bustling forward work they penetrated to the home quarter, but their attack lacked sting, and Loveridge from a pass by Hughes ran to midfield. Lydney were enabled by a misfield by Williams to get back to the home quarter, and Imm and Richards put in a promising run, but failed to penetrate the home defence.

Off-side robbed the Foresters of their position, and although they later kicked down to Williams, the home full-back gathered well, and after a smart run sent to touch inside the Lydney half.

The visitors had put new life into their game, tackling in deadly fashion and dribbling with considerable effect. They were now having quite as much of the game as Gloucester. Wickson was using the touch line to advantage, and put his side into a splendid attacking position. They failed to carry the scrum in front of the posts, and Hughes cleared them out of the home quarters.

The visiting forwards made a short burst, but were pulled up, and then the City forwards put in an irresistible dribble, and Mansell gathering ran in beneath the posts for a try, which Williams converted. Coulson was the next to score a try, which Joe Rea tried unsuccessfully to improve upon.

Lydney had a fine chance to score, one of their forwards dribbling past Williams, but he lacked speed and the full-back outpaced him and kicked over the dead ball line.

A moment later Miles seemed to have got clean away and was running strongly but Hogg managed to touch his heel and he fell.

Hobbs, who had been playing a clever game, cut out an opening for Fisher, who scored his third try wide out, Hogg this time unsuccessfully essaying the goal kick.

Lydney should have scored just before the end.

H. Jones, a Lydney forward, was sent off for continually disputing the referee's decisions and using foul language.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 1 goal 5 tries (20 pts.)

Lydney A Nil