

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1922.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER'S TRIUMPH AT PORTSMOUTH.

SERVICES BEATEN AFTER LEADING AT INTERVAL.

CITY TEAM'S GREAT FINISH.

Gloucester appeared at Portsmouth to-day for the return match with the United Services. The City won the first game at Kingsholm by 21 points to 5, but with a weakened team this afternoon – Ayliffe, Voyce, Brown, Daniell, and Smart were all absent – the visitors were expected to be hard put to repeat their triumph on the same ground last year. The Services, however, also suffered from absentees, Davies, Kershaw, and Stephenson (all International players) being the most notable. Gloucester made the journey to Portsmouth overnight.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : J. C. Collett.

THREE-QUARTERS : F. Meadows, E. Hughes, S. Stone, and S. R. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS : T. Gough and T. Millington.

FORWARDS : H. W. Collier, G. Holford, Major Roderick, A. Hall, M. Evans, A. Rea, S. Bayliss, and T. Coulson.

UNITED SERVICES.

BACK : H. H. Palmer.

THREE-QUARTERS : J. L. Rees, H. S. Walkey, A. B. Usher, and J. W. Rayner.

HALF-BACKS : F. E. Chevallier and J. Burnett.

FORWARDS : R. S. Benson, J. H. Dale, D. Orr-Ewing, P. Todd, C. E. C. Robinson, C. C. Hardy, F. A. Haines, and A. L. Poland.

THE GAME.

The visitors gained the toss, but had no advantage. Millington was early prominent with a smart run, but was well held when Hughes passed to him. The Services forwards, with a great rush, reached the visitors' 25. Gloucester again came away on the right, but a series of scrimmages followed, and play settled at midfield. There Hughes again got hold and tried the "dummy" on Usher, but the latter was not accepting. The Services were now doing finely forward, and Todd following up his own kick beat Collett for the ball and scored well in, Burnett converting with a good kick.

The Services were now going great guns forward, and kept play strictly in the visitors' quarters. Hughes made some ground with a smart run, but his poor pass to his wing went to touch. The Services were well holding Gloucester in the tight, and getting most of the ball in the scrimmages, but Collett at length brought relief with a big kick to touch.

Gloucester now began to find their feet. Their forwards were better, and were beginning to get the ball more in the tight. The Services threatened danger, but Collett came to the rescue with a run and long kick to touch, Gough carrying on a movement with another kick from the loose which took the game into the home 25 for the first time in the match, and after over twenty minutes' play.

Gloucester now held the game in the home quarters. The Services were penalised for off-side at the base of the scrum, and from a favourable position Millington landed a good penalty goal.

The visitors failed to maintain their pressure, however, and the Services took the game into their opponents' 25, where the forwards went over, but the ball went to touch-in-goal. The Services made every use of their additional weight forward, and showed great vim in the rushes.

Gloucester were penalised for not putting the ball promptly into the scrum, but Burnett's kick went a few yards wide. The homesters kept up a hot pressure, which was steadily resisted by the visitors' back division, Hughes and Stone being prominent.

Benson got away from a line-out and kicked right down the field and over Collett's head, but the latter recovered himself, and in a great rush for the corner saved a try.

Gloucester worked away from the ensuing scrummage five yards out, and the interval arrived with Gloucester attacking in good style, but failing to penetrate the quick home defence, Chevallier being especially prominent.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
UNITED SERVICES 1 goal
GLOUCESTER 1 goal (p)

Gloucester were early pressing in the second half, and the game was hotly fought out near the line. The City forwards, however, could not get the ball in the scrummage, and the visiting backs were consequently starved. The ball was at length kicked up to Millington, who took a careful shot at goal, but the leather did not reach the spot.

Palmer found a long touch, and play again settled at midfield. Gough plunged gaily through a mass of opponents to be grassed at last. Collett was collared in possession when taking a high punt, but Hughes found touch in time. Rayner was next seen plunging through, and Crowther hanging to his jersey after Rayner had punted. Gloucester were penalised, but Burnett's kick just failed.

Some big kicking by Rees put the Services again on the attack, and the game again was taken into the visitors' 25. Gough was penalised for off-side at the base of the scrum, and a score looked likely, but Burnett's kick was charged down. Crowther got away down the line and beat Palmer for the ball, but Walkley was as fast and kicked dead.

Play alternated between mid-field and the visitors' quarters. The Services were penalised at the centre, and Collett, with a tremendous kick, found touch near the flag.

Gloucester had a great chance, but were relentlessly pressed back by determined forward play. Again and again Gloucester came up to the attack, and following an interruption by the referee re. four up in the scrum, play settled in the home far corner.

Play was ding-dong, and excitement tremendous. Scrummage followed scrummage not ten yards from the line; in fact the game at this point was one long scrum.

At length a Service man found touch. Gloucester were nearly in directly after, but the ball went astray between the two centre threes. Millington burst through and was held up on the line.

Five minutes from time the Gloucester forwards went over the line in a body, and Gough was found on the ball. Millington goaled.

Gloucester were lasting grandly, and keeping play steadily in the home 25. Stone and Hughes put in several good runs, and the latter was nearly over, but Rayner came up and kicked to touch.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 2 goals (1p) (8 points)

UNITED SERVICES 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS.

Our special correspondent remarks : –

Gloucester deserved to win, and yet in one sense were fortunate. They were beaten badly forward in the first half, and for a portion of the second half. Gough rarely had a chance to get the ball out. He stuck gamely to Chevallier, however, and rarely did the home threes get properly going.

The last ten minutes was tremendously forceful. The City eight made huge efforts to keep the game close and not allow the saving kick to touch, and success rewarded their almost superhuman efforts.

Roderick was great among the forwards. Millington was prominent on occasion. The backs were somewhat slow in downing the man, but the team's play as a team in the last ten minutes retrieved all previous failures and lack of thrust.

GLOUCESTER A *v.* DRYBROOK.

CITY SECONDS' GOOD WIN.

SPECTACULAR TRY BY SID BROWN.

Drybrook provided the opposition for Gloucester A at Kingsholm this afternoon. Neither team was at full strength, although the City Reserves had the assistance of Dix, Sid Brown and Sid Smart, three First Teamers. The attendance was very fair.

Teams : –

Gloucester A : H. Griffiths; S. Brown, T. Wadley, J. W. Gibbs, and R. James; W. Dix and R. Cook; F. Mansell (capt.), P. Carter, A. Wright, A. Owner, H. G. Mountford, J. H. Webb, S. Smart, and E. Curtis.

Drybrook : C. Harris; R. Edwards, A. Watkins, H. Cann, and C. Brain; Colin Boseley and T. Kettle; A. Harris, R. Burford, F. Meek, C. Meek, A. Stephens, H. Roberts, Curtis Boseley, and A. Burford.

Referee : J. H. Babbage.

Gloucester kicked off, but the visitors lost no time in setting up a determined attack. Their forwards heeled well, and Kettle was not afraid to open up, with the result that their wings made several dashes for the line.

Then the home three-quarters got going properly, and Brown covered three-parts of the length of the ground with a champion cork-screw run. He sent to Cook, but the fly half was too closely marked, and the ball went to touch at the corner. A keen struggle took place in the visitors' 25, where they were penalised in a position from which James had no difficulty in kicking a goal.

This reverse stimulated the Foresters, who made another loose dash to the Gloucester quarter, and it was only with great difficulty that Gibbs and Webb succeeded in pulling them up. They continued to press and after a splendid bout of passing Watkins made straight for the line; but when within sight he passed forward and lost a fine chance

A minute or two later Kettle had a shot for goal from a penalty, but the attempt was poor. Then Dix, determined to give the three-quarters something to do, sent out a sharp pass to Cook, who set the three-quarters racing for the line. Everything went well, and after Brown and Wadley had mystified the defence, Wadley scored in the corner. James failed to convert.

Dix was making a wonderful difference to the play of the reserves, and again and again he opened out despite the keen attention of Kettle and the indifferent heeling of the Gloucester pack.

The next score was credited to Brown, who scored as a result of a precise bit of back play and ran from just outside the Gloucester line to the Drybrook line. It was a spectacular try and Brown was loudly cheered. James converted.

From the restart the visitors came away and penetrated to the City quarter, where they were awarded a penalty and Kettle landed a goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A 2 goals (1p) 1 try
Drybrook 1 goal (p)

Within a minute of the re-start the home forwards set up a sharp dribble, Smart taking the ball on the bounce and running over with a try, which James was unable to improve.

The position was not very encouraging for Drybrook, but they persevered and forced their way to the home quarter. Their play, although lacking nothing in keenness, was ragged, and what chances there were they threw away.

Harris, their full-back, was playing a good game, and so was Kettle, but their threes could do nothing right. Their forwards kept pegging away, and after a rush to the Gloucester quarter they narrowly missed scoring. They were awarded a penalty in front of the posts, and Kettle kicked his second goal.

Both the Drybrook scores had been made possible by the perseverance of their forwards, and now they continued to press and kept in a favourable position for a time. Griffiths, who had been called upon at the last moment to deputise in the back division, was doing surprisingly well, saving and kicking in a useful manner.

The Drybrook forwards did not tire, and kept play in the Gloucester half, but they were over-eager and were penalised several times. Then Gloucester were unlucky, being penalised in front of their posts again, for Kettle to kick a third goal.

This further reverse put the home team on their mettle, and after a couple of fierce forward bursts, which carried them to the Drybrook quarter Gibb received a pass from one of the forwards, and getting clean away raced round behind the posts. James added the necessary points.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ...	3 goals (1p), 2 tries (19 pts.)
Drybrook	3 goals (p) (9 points)

REMARKS.

The game was certainly one of Gloucester A's best exhibitions, and was interesting from start to finish. Dix, Brown, and Smart made a wonderful difference to the play, Dix and Brown doing some particularly fine work.

The forwards were pretty well matched, the visitors playing up well, both in the scrums and the loose, but the home back division were much too good for Drybrook.

In addition to players named, Cook, Wadley, James and Gibb all played well. The Drybrook three-quarters, although appearing to have speed played very poor football. Kettle was one of their best players.

JC