

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1922.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. MOSELEY.

WEAKENED CITY TEAM EASY WINNERS.

Gloucester fielded a very weak team for their match with Moseley at Kingsholm this afternoon, for in addition to the seven regular players in the County team, Sid Brown was playing for Lancashire and Norman Daniell was on the injured list. The weather was excellent, but the attendance was poor.

Teams :—

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : R. James.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. Crowther, S. Stone, F. Meadows, and J. C. Collett.

HALF-BACKS : E. Hughes and R. Cook.

FORWARDS : G. Holford (capt.), S. Smart, T. Taylor, T. Coulson, H. W. Collier, A. Rea, F. Mansell, and H. G. Mountford.

MOSELEY.

BACK : J. A. Pritchard.

THREE-QUARTERS : J. R. McDowell, A. J. Rose, L. C. Spencer, and E. Foster.

HALF-BACKS : D. R. Thomas and W. H. Hill.

FORWARDS : G. A. Woodward, H. W. Hill, L. M. Abbott, H. W. Coales, F. J. Rogers, J. Burton, P. D. Walker, and C. G. Stanley.

Referee : Mr. Melliush (Bath).

THE GAME.

Woodward kicked off for Moseley, who had the sun in their eyes. Collett fielded and sent to touch. The Moseley backs handled and found touch, but they lost ground a moment later as the result of a forward rush led by Mountford and Holford. Then Collett, who had gained possession, put in a long kick, and following up smartly pulled down Pritchard. A keen struggle ensued, and a scrum was ordered. From this Hughes got the ball smartly away to Cook. Meadows cut through nicely, and being tackled passed to Crowther, who scored in a good position. James converted with a lovely kick, and four minutes from the start Gloucester were five points up.

On the restart James showed up well with a run through, and Gloucester again attacked with vigour. Hughes, who was doing very well, put in several good individual efforts, including a wonderful run down the field. He was tackled just in time, and Pritchard sent to touch. Then the visitors attacked with good back play. Mansell was penalised for off-side play, and James slipping only recovered in time to send to touch in his own 25. Here Moseley obtained and gave a useful handling display, in which Spencer figured, but they could not pierce the defence. A mark by Moseley stopped a Gloucester forward rush, but James fielded and put in a splendid touch-finder.

The Moseley line had another narrow escape when Stone broke through and passed to Holford. The latter handed on to Meadows, but the movement broke down at Crowther, who failed to accept his pass with a clear run in.

A kick to touch in the corner did not help Gloucester much, for the home pack failed to get the ball back, and McDowell carried play to mid-field. From the next scrum the City heeled, but Cook was not quick enough to get rid of the ball. He made good a little later, when he fielded a penalty kick and sent to Hughes. The ball travelled to Meadows, who cut through beautifully and transferred to Hughes, who in turn sent to Stone, for the inside left to score a try. James failed with the kick.

The Midlanders restarted, and quickly worked into the home 25, their backs handling smartly, but they were not quite quick enough, and Collett brought Spencer down just before he crossed. An oversight by Crowther, who was yards off-side, gave the visitors a penalty, but the kick went wide, and James fielded and sent to touch at midfield.

From an open movement in which several of the backs handled, Stone passed back to Hughes, who evaded several opponents and scored a great try after a run of 40 yards. James again failed to add the extra points.

After an incursion into the City quarter by Moseley, the home backs again got moving nicely, and Stone gaining possession tried to produce a score, following Hughes' example. He was, however, pulled down, but not until after a fine run. Moseley were not done with by any means, and Foster and Spencer got in a dangerous run and punt, but Crowther got across smartly and sent to touch.

HALF-TIME :
GLOUCESTER 1 goal, 2 tries
MOSELEY Nil

On the resumption there was a period of play at midfield. Spencer was injured but resumed. The City set up an attack upon the Moseley line, but Pritchard checked, and the Midland forwards with fine footwork invaded the home quarter. In the tight they were also doing well, and Thomas was able to serve his backs. The ball travelled to Foster, who ran strongly down the touch-line, but Crowther came across and tackled him finely.

This was a narrow escape for Gloucester, who were again called to defend a moment or two later. The defence held well, and it was not long before the home team cleared to the centre. Moseley were playing very keenly now, and kept up an attack on the Gloucester line for some time. Spencer tried a drop at goal, but failed.

Gradually Gloucester worked down, and when outside the visitors' quarter the forwards heeled. The halves and three-quarters handled skilfully, and Collett sailed in with a try which he failed to improve.

By no means discouraged Moseley, aided by some useful kicking by Hill, came away and reached the home 25, where a scrum infringement gave them an excellent chance to open their account, but Woodward's attempt was a dismal failure.

The Midlanders continued to press, but they lacked finish, and harassed by the keen tackling of the City team they failed to turn their movements to account. For a time Gloucester penned the visitors in their quarter, but despite the heeling of the forwards the home backs were unable to do anything, and allowed the Midlanders to force them back.

Hughes made a nice run from a line-out, and Collett improved matters with a run and punt across the field, but Pritchard got to the ball first. Holford pulled him down, but from a scrum Moseley got the ball away again and cleared. Gloucester kept pegging away, and in the course of a scramble on the line the ball was kicked over, Hughes dashing through the forwards and touching down. James converted with a fine kick.

Moseley were now entirely on the defensive, and were hard put to it to frustrate the dashing tactics of the home forwards. Near the end they livened up, and after their forwards had rushed to the home quarter their threes made a determined attempt to get through, Foster narrowly missing on two occasions.

They kept up the pressure for a few moments longer, and Rose made a futile drop for goal. The visitors fell off again now, and after a forward rush the ball was kicked over the line and Stone scored, Collett failing to convert.

After the restart the Moseley forwards took possession of the game and rushed to the City quarter, where Foster picked up and got clean away, scoring behind the posts. Hill added the extra points.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 2 goals 4 tries (22 pts.)

MOSELEY 1 goal (5 pts.)

REMARKS.

Taking the game as a whole, it was of a somewhat scrappy nature, with flashes of brilliant play on both sides. Four of the Gloucester tries were the result of splendid combination and finish, while Foster's try for the visitors was a real beauty. Although the home team secured a substantial margin, they did not have things all their own way, and at times only saved their line after desperate defensive work.

The Moseley left wing was the most dangerous, Spencer and Foster putting in some excellent work from time to time. Hill, their fly-half, was also useful. Their pack did some excellent work in the scrums and gave the backs a fair share of the ball, but their passing movements generally came to grief quickly in face of the keen tackling of the Gloucester men.

In the loose the home forwards easily held the upper hand, and largely contributed to victory. Hughes made quite a success at scrum half, but Cook was slow at times, and the former had to do a good deal of individual work. The home three-quarter line gave a satisfactory account of themselves, all playing well individually, even if their combination was sometimes at fault. James was much superior to Pritchard in the full back position, and played an improved game.

Next week : United Services, at Portsmouth.

J.H.H.