

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1922.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER'S FINE WIN AT TWICKENHAM.

At the Rugby Union headquarters at Twickenham, on Saturday, Gloucester recorded a fine victory over the Harlequins by 1 goal, 2 tries (11 points) to nil. Millington, Roderick and Bayliss scored the tries for the City, and Millington converted one.

The Londoners fielded a powerful side, especially behind the scrum, where Gracie, Pitman, and V. G. Davies (Internationals) and Jacot (Oxford University) figured; but a great display by the Gloucester forwards upset all calculations, and the Harlequins were a well-beaten side in the second half.

The 'Quins started off at a fast pace, and had the better of the game for the first quarter, but deadly marking by the visitors prevented a score. Thereafter the City front took the game in hand, and with splendid support behind the issue was never in doubt.

The winners' play all round (writes "W.B.") was vastly superior to that shown against Cross Keys. Millington's presence made a great difference, his skill, judgment and sound methods being of immense advantage to the side.

Gough rendered him extremely useful service in the second half, and the three-quarters all did well, with Brown the most noticeable by reason of one or two brilliant runs. Collett, too, gave a good account of himself, his deadly tackling being a prominent feature.

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Gloucester won by reason of their superiority in forward play. They generally had things their own way in the scrums, but they were even better in the loose. A match uneven in its qualities contained nothing better than the tackling and kicking of J. C. Collett, Gloucester's full-back, one of those cool, anticipating players who always seem to have plenty of time.

Prominent among forwards who showed much faith in rushes were A.T. Voyce, S. Smart, and G. Holford – all Internationals. But most of the Gloucester players displayed something like a contempt for the off-side rule. And Voyce is surely old enough to know that it is bad form to argue with the referee. – "Daily Mail."

It was the Gloucester forwards who won the match, and, while in the earlier stages they had been pushed and hustled about, later on they came into their own, and quite outplayed the Harlequins' pack. Holford, Voyce, and Smart led many a fine rush, and were backed up by Roderick and M. C. Evans, the last-named a young player who bids fair to become very good indeed with his splendid dribbling and stout tackling.

The Harlequins' backs did not have too many chances, but they scarcely showed their best form, and, while the Gloucester three-quarters were fast, they also rarely brought off any effective round of passing. There was a lot of splendidly hard play in an interesting match, but one would have liked to have seen a nicer appreciation of the off-side rule by the Gloucester forwards. – "Morning Post."

Gloucester won the match with their forwards, who in every respect had the better of the Harlequin pack. There was little to choose in weight, and in youth the Harlequins had the advantage, but the pace and stamina of the Gloucester pack in the loose and their hooking in the scrummages were altogether superior.

Gough, who was playing for Dix at scrummage half-back, kept hard at his work the whole time, and gave just those openings to Millington that enabled the latter to stand out as the most successful player in the match. It is difficult to believe that Dix would have served him better, and Millington, helped by a rather hesitating defence, made the most of his chances.

The greater part of the Gloucester attacking movements in fact were confined to the centre of the field, and were executed by Millington, possibly one of the inside three-quarter backs, and two or three of the forwards. The game was not quite fast enough to amuse Voyce, but he was generally there, and so were Holford, Smart, and Roderick. These four forwards – and it must be remembered that Ayliffe was not playing – were quite sufficient on the day to settle the run of play both in attack and defence.

The Gloucester wing quarters were hardly called upon to do anything, although Daniell once brought Pitman down when the Harlequins did really look likely to score, but S. A. Brown and F. Meadows, in the centre, both did exactly what was wanted of them. J. C. Collett, at back, also played very well; he is big, but well built, has a reasonable amount of speed, kicks well, if a trifle high, and, above all, seemed on Saturday, at any rate, to be able to spot the right place in which to be. – "The Times."

The whole game was spoiled by the off-side tactics of certain of the Gloucester forwards. No fewer than seventeen free kicks were given against their side, whereas Harlequins were penalised once. Mr. E. W. Culver, who refereed admirably, was perfectly justified in awarding every one of these kicks. What makes it all the more regrettable is that Gloucester could have won without indulging in these malpractices, for they had much the better of the game, and were clearly the better team. As their forwards gave the backs a liberal supply of the ball, they did most of the pressing, and it was largely owing to a great deal of excellent defensive work on the part of A. L. Gracie that they did not run up a larger score.

In attack Gracie was too well looked after to go far and the play never developed on I. J. Pitman's wing. B. L. Jacot was better favoured, and early in the game looked a certain scorer until the Gloucester full back brought him down in fine style. – "Westminster Gazette."

For their victory Gloucester had to thank their forwards, who, after being outplayed for the first half hour, found their best form and practically won the match on their own. They upheld the best traditions of that strong West County forward play, which, since the war, has so largely contributed to the success of Gloucestershire in the County Championship, but one could speak even more enthusiastically of them if they had not spoiled so much of their good work by persistently getting off-side. Time after time the Harlequins escaped by the free kicks which Mr. Calver, the referee, found himself compelled to award.

Holford, Voyce, Smart, and Roderick played admirably for Gloucester, who in M. C. Evans have clearly found a most valuable recruit. He was very fast and an excellent dribbler, while his tackling, like that of all the others, had much to do with the success of his side.

Millington, the stand-off half, had Gough as his partner instead of Dix, who could not play, and for some time the new man did not get on at all well. The longer the game lasted, however, the better he played, and towards the finish he worked wonderfully well with his more famous colleagues. In J. C. Collett Gloucester had an excellent full-back. Weighing 13st. 5lbs. and only 22 years of age, he is a powerful kick and strong tackler, and has the making of a first-rate player. – "Daily Telegraph."

Without disparaging their victory, it is only proper to observe that Gloucester ought really to have lost. The Harlequins during the first period had enough chances to win the game then and there. Their three-quarters never really got going, while King and Wakelam should each have kicked a penalty goal. Gloucester were not only being beaten in the scrummages, but in the loose and behind as well, and as they were constantly penalised for various infringements – chiefly off-side – the Harlequins had matters their own way, only to fritter away their chances.

Very different was the tale when later on Gloucester, in turn, were on their opponents' line. They always looked dangerous then, and two of their tries came from some loose work and a quick scramble over. Gloucester did not have Dix at scrum half. A little fellow named Gough partnered Millington, and for some time did not fit in with the scheme of things. As the game progressed he steadily improved, and in the second half he and Millington were a clever combination, so that the backs had more of the ball.

But at no time was the three-quarter work of Gloucester particularly great. The men were fast, but did not pass with their accustomed skill, and often fumbled. It was forward where Gloucester maintained all their traditions, and it seemed a pity that they should have spoilt much of their play by so persistently getting off-side. In M. C. Evans they appear to have discovered a really good player – fast and a rare worker – while Smart, Holford, Voyce, and Roderick were always prominent. – "Sporting Life."

Gloucester won chiefly through the brilliance of their forwards, the fine tackling of their backs, and the cleverness of Millington, the acting skipper, at outside half in making the best of chances that came the way of the visitors. Excepting for a persistent tendency of the forwards to play off-side, Gloucester gave a fine display, and the rebound into form after the poor game against Cross Keys is very satisfactory.

Gloucester had a young strapping full back in Collett. A fine strong kick, courageous, and fairly cool, he should do well. The threes are unusually fast, but require a centre of steadying authority and skill. Brown and Daniell were the pick. Gough did not combine well at first with Millington, but showed much improvement later. He is nippy and has a good pair of hands. Millington is a class man in every way. Voyce, Holford, and Roderick upheld their reputations forward, and Evans, a young town recruit to the pack seems to be a real find. – "Astral" ("Daily News").