

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1930.

GLOUCESTER 12 Points; NORTHAMPTON 6 Points.

A PATCHY GAME.

NORTHAMPTON'S 22ND DEFEAT AT KINGSHOLM.

ROY JAMES' BIG SUCCESS AT FULL BACK.

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Both clubs suffered from absentees for this important match at Kingsholm this afternoon, Gloucester having to replace Saxby and Boughton. The City captain strained his back on the farm, and he may not play again for a few weeks. Boughton still suffers from pains in the back as a result of the injury he met with against Swansea, and was advised to stand down again. The vacancy at full back was filled by Roy James, Loveridge coming in at three-quarter.

Northampton, who won the first match this season by 10 points to 6, lacked the services of R. Jones and Kalaugher, the former's place at outside half being taken by J. D. Markland, who recently joined the team from Rugby. Glorious weather prevailed, but the attendance was between 4,000 and 5,000.

The revised teams were : —

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : Roy James (capt.).

THREE-QUARTERS : R. N. Loveridge, M. A. McCanlis, G. Baker, and A. Hough.

HALF-BACKS : F. Price and D. Meadows.

FORWARDS : F. Wadley, J. Davies, A. Carpenter, E. Comley, G. Foulkes, D. Crichton-Miller, F. Russell, and J. Hemming.

NORTHAMPTON.

BACK : R. Vaughan.

THREE-QUARTERS : E. E. Haselmere, A. D. Daniels, W. H. Weston (capt.), and L. Mayes.

HALF-BACKS : J. Millward and J. D. Markland.

FORWARDS : M. Jelley, N. A. York, E. Coley, T. Harris, W. M. Jackson, R. J. Longland, R. Webb, and V. Watkins.

THE GAME.

The kick-off was ten minutes late, the Gloucester team and officials having been photographed. Play opened very tamely in the Gloucester half, the attempts of both sides to open out from the early scrums failing. Northampton were early awarded a penalty, but Weston's shot for goal was very wide and McCanlis receiving, punted well to near the centre. Wild passing by the visitors allowed Gloucester to make headway, but a flying kick went to James, who gathered neatly and sent to touch. A bout of passing brought Northampton out, and the Gloucester end was visited.

Price, with a neat move and cross-kick, looked likely to give Gloucester an advantage, but Daniels marked cleverly and found touch 30 yards up the field. Gloucester were being beaten for possession in the scrums and from one movement, initiated by Millward, Haselmere received and cross-punted right in front of goal, Gloucester escaping luckily with a minor.

SCRAMBLING PLAY.

Play was rather scrambling, but Gloucester were having the worst of the exchanges. Northampton opened out several times, but the backs preferred to kick instead of passing. A loose dribble by the visitors looked dangerous, but Loveridge came across and saved. For an off-side tackle the visitors were penalised, the resultant kick gaining some 30 yards.

At the centre Price at length got his backs moving nicely, and Hough tried hard to shake off the attentions of Haselmere. He eventually passed inside to McCanlis, who made headway, but the movement was stopped by Vaughan.

JAMES' FINE RUN.

Northampton worked out of danger and a long kick went to James, who brought off a great run, beating man after man. He secured a fine opening, and a try looked certain, but the final pass was knocked forward by an opponent. Gloucester went very close in a rush, but could not cross. From a short line out, however, HOUGH secured and dashed over in the corner. James failed at goal.

GLOUCESTER IMPROVE.

Following this score Gloucester showed greatly improved form, the backs doing excellent work. Baker, from a sharp pass from McCanlis, burst through finely and fed Hough, who raced to Vaughan. The wing man got the ball back to Baker, who again repassed, but out of reach. Play was quickly transferred to the other wing, where McCanlis and Loveridge were prominent. The latter ran well and tried hard to beat Vaughan, but was upset.

Gloucester continued to have the better of the play, the forwards doing fine work in the loose. A promising rush was checked on the 25 line and then Meadows opened out on the left. The passing, however, broke down, and Daniels recovering, he fed Weston, who made progress until forced to transfer to Coley. The latter, however, was upset by Meadows and James.

CITY ATTACK STRONGLY.

Gloucester were getting the ball better in the scrums now and the half-backs got the ball away neatly. Baker made one big effort to break through, but was overpowered. The City started another attack, but it did not travel far, and Northampton changed the situation with kicking.

BAKER'S DROPPED GOAL FROM MARK.

Price and James were prominent just now with capital work for Gloucester, and Meadows, with a lovely touch-finder, put his side in a good position.

Weston, trying to clear, punted feebly to Baker, who made his mark in a favourable position. With a splendid kick Baker dropped a goal, and gave Gloucester another three points.

The football had improved all round, the Gloucester backs handling nicely. McCanlis and Baker made splendid headway on one occasion and Loveridge was served, but he could not escape the attentions of Mayer and was bored to touch.

Millward was working very hard at the scrums for Northampton, but his three-quarters were not very helpful.

MCCANLIS SCORES.

Strong work by Crichton-Miller and Davies placed Gloucester in an attacking position, and Vaughan was hard pressed near his line. He ran round and kicked, the ball being taken by Loveridge. The latter opened out to the right, and Meadows, with a clever reverse pass to McCanlis, gave the latter a chance which he accepted, going straight through and scoring a fine try. Baker just missed the goal points.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (m.) 2 tries
NORTHAMPTON Nil

After a moderate opening the City had showed fine form, and their nine points lead was well deserved. Northampton forwards had done well, but the backs lacked the speed and combination of the City. Gloucester's second try was a very fine effort, in which Meadows shared the honours with McCanlis.

NORTHAMPTON REWARDED.

Play opened fast in the second half, with Davies early prominent with a dashing run. The County forward hit off a couple of opponents, but was collared from behind and compelled to let the ball go. Wadley and Hemming tried hard to get clear, but were unsuccessful. Northampton, who were short of Daniels, had Jelley at three-quarter, and Haselmere played at outside half.

Some wild play at the centre left the ball with the Northampton forwards, who dribbled to the City 25, where Baker was upset and laid out.

From a scrum close in Haselmere punted across and over the line for JELLEY to race up and gain the touch, opening Northampton's score. The place-kick failed. Baker, who had left the field, returned, but changed places with Loveridge.

BAKER RETIRES.

James, who was doing finely at full back, gave Gloucester the advantage, on resuming, with some good touch-kicking, but the backs were not happy in one or two passing movements.

The forwards, however, brought off one superb rush which was only checked in the nick of time. Baker, who looked very groggy, now went off, and Foulkes came out to wing three-quarter. The sides were thus level in numbers.

Meadows put Gloucester well down with a beautiful kick, and the ball coming out to Foulkes, the forward side-stepped two or three opponents, and sent out a pass to McCanlis, who had come outside him. The old Oxford Blue, however, failed to get through.

Then came two attempts by James and Meadows to drop goals, which were not successful.

REFEREE LOSES HIS WATCH.

Following the drop-out the referee had to stop the game, having lost his wrist watch. He was consulting Tom Voyce (touch-judge) as to the time when players picked the watch up on the field, and the game was continued. Play proceeded fairly even until Loveridge punted high with McCanlis following up well, but the bounce of the ball beat the Gloucester man. Haselmere twice pulled up the home team when well away, and his move to the pivotal position had been a great advantage to Northampton.

TRY GIVEN AWAY.

There was a good deal of scrappy play in subsequent exchanges, and the combination of the Gloucester backs was not so good as before the interval. Meadows' individual work, however, was excellent. In some scrambling play at the centre Price was knocked out, but was able to continue after a brief respite.

The forwards just now were mostly engaged, and the tackling between the rival packs was very heavy. Near the centre the City half-backs opened out, and Loveridge went through, but threw the ball away when tackled. It was picked up by Weston, who had an open field with the exception of James. HASELMERE was backing up, and, taking a nice pass, had an unopposed run over – an opportunist try, but given away by Loveridge. Weston missed the kick at goal from a favourable position, and the score was 9-6 in Gloucester's favour.

FOULKES' SPLENDID TRY.

The match was not yet won, and the game was resumed with great keenness – too keen at times and not the best temper displayed. Gloucester worked hard on the restart and visited their opponents' end. Vaughan marked from a smart kick by Meadows, and then for off-side Northampton were penalised.

McCanlis short kicked, and re-gathering, started passing. The forwards were in alignment, and the ball was handled by half a dozen players. FOULKES was the last to receive, and deftly clearing two opponents, forced himself over with a fine try, amidst great cheering. James failed at goal.

On the resumption Northampton pressed severely, but James saved on the line. Gloucester cleared through Meadows and the end came.

RESULT :

GLO'STER 1 goal (m.) 3 tries (12 pts.)

NORTHAMPTON 2 tries (6 pts.)

REMARKS.

Except for a period of 20 minutes in the first half the football was very patchy, and there were occasions when the players infused far too much keenness into their play. Gloucester were the better team on the day's play, but the form was inconsistent. The features were the success of Roy James at full back, and George Foulkes as a temporary three-quarter.

The Gloucester Committee did not decide on Boughton's deputy until practically the last minute, but it was just as well the decision went in favour of Roy James, who had had experience in the position. The vice-captain proved his versatility by giving a capital all-round display, which Boughton could not have improved upon. James was pretty well tested all through, but he fielded safely, kicked with judgment with either foot, and was sound in defence. He also made one of the best runs in the match, and though a try did not materialise direct from his effort, it led to Gloucester gaining a position which a little later Hough utilised by scoring.

When Baker retired, Foulkes came out as wing three-quarter and the forward displayed cleverness and ability which appealed strongly to the crowd. Foulkes' try was one of the smartest recorded during the afternoon, for he had to beat two men and it required a fine burst to carry him over the line.

The Gloucester backs, as a whole, had some good moments, but the best judgment was not always exercised. This was especially the case in the second half, and Loveridge's lapse which led to Haselmere scoring the second try, was not an isolated instance. McCanlis scored one very fine try, and with Baker, made several strong bursts, but things did not always pan out as intended. Hough was only moderately served, but showed plenty of dash when given the chance.

At scrum half-back, Price had a lively opponent in Millward, and honours between the pair were evenly divided. Meadows was the most reliable of the Gloucester outsides, and that clever reverse pass of his which gave McCanlis a try completely deceived the defence. Meadows' relief kicking was excellent. Haselmere was Northampton's strongest asset, and it was a wise move when he came up to outside half, where his experience and resourcefulness were invaluable.

It was a hard tussle forward, and Gloucester were kept going right to the end. Northampton had a fair share of the ball in the scrums, and they were very fast in the open, Coley, Webb and York being prominent. The City revealed their true form at times, and brought off some effective loose rushes. Individually, Davies, Comley, and Crichton-Miller were often noticeable.

Vaughan, who reappeared at full back after an absence through injury, served the East Midlanders well at full back, though not so outstanding as usual. The visitors' third line were not distinguished in attack, but defended strongly.

Next week : Leicester, away (L.M.S. cheap excursion).