

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1929

GLOUCESTER 10 pts., UNITED SERVICES 8 pts.

WEAKENED TEAM'S DESPERATE FIGHT.

TWO BRILLIANT TRIES BY JAMES.

A GAME OF KEEN TACKLING.

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

With Boughton and Davies engaged in the English Trial, and McCanlis and Crichton-Miller unable to make the journey to Portsmouth, Gloucester were seriously weakened for their engagement with the powerful United Services team to-day.

Last season the Services won by 3 tries to nil, but the two previous years victory rested with the city – in 1926-7 by 1 goal (p.) 2 tries (9 points) to 1 goal (5 points), and the following year by 4 goals, 1 try (23 points) to 1 penalty goal (3 points). On both these occasions Gloucester were short of full strength, and this encouraged the hope that the reserves would again show their worth this afternoon.

R. C. Thompson was originally chosen to deputise for Boughton at full back, but he had to decline, and W. Ash was called upon. The Gloucester forwards were fully expected to hold their own, but the absence of such personalities as Boughton and McCanlis from the back division was bound to be felt.

The City team had a long forward journey, having to travel to London and proceed to Portsmouth from Waterloo in order to reach their destination in time for the kick-off, which was fixed for 2.30 p.m.

Teams : –

#### GLOUCESTER.

BACK: W. Ash.

THREE-QUARTERS: R. N. Loveridge, G. Orpin, E. Stephens, and Roy James.

HALF-BACKS: F. Price and Don Meadows.

FORWARDS: F. Wadley, G. Foulkes, J. Hemming, E. Comley, T. Hiam, F. Russell, A. Webb, and H. J. Hyett.

#### UNITED SERVICES.

BACK: A. C. Miers.

THREE-QUARTERS: C. St. Clair Ford, G. M. Sladen, R. W. Armytage, and R. Buckley.

HALF-BACKS: R. V. Odbert and G. P. Davies.

FORWARDS: T. G. P. Crick, M. J. Brosman, J. W. Linton, J. W. Forrest, J. C. Westall, W. C. Thomas, W. J. C. Robertson, and A. G. Sowman.

Referee: Mr. A. Trollope, London.

Gloucester had further disappointments. Carpenter was unable to travel, A. Webb taking his place, and Saxby failed to turn up, letting in H. J. Hyett, the reserve. There was one change in the Service team, W. J. C. Robertson coming in forward.

#### THE GAME.

The afternoon turned out brilliantly fine, but the playing pitch was very bad in places. There were only 200 or 300 spectators present

when the Services kicked off. The City forwards at once pressed, and Hemming led a sharp attack, the home team saving close in.

A penalty against the City enabled the Services to clear, and later Sladen tried hard to break away but was well tackled. The visitors, dribbling well, gained some 30 yards and again the Services were hard pressed, Miers just gaining the touch for a minor.

#### WILD PASSING.

Following the drop-out the Services made headway with footwork, and Ash failing to field from a penalty a scrum followed in the Gloucester 25. Wild passing by the home backs enabled James to pick up and get in a big kick. Miers was well tackled by Price, and forced to touch near his quarter flag.

#### VERY CLOSE MARKING.

So far the Services had all the heeling, but the backs did not make much progress, the marking being very close. Eventually Odbert broke away on the blind side and fed Buckley, who cross-kicked cleverly, but James marked in good style.

The Services attacked sharply again but they failed to get through, going very close. A penalty to Gloucester enabled Stephens to bring relief with a good punt which Miers knocked on.

At the centre line the City opened out and James and Foulkes tried hard to clear, but were checked in time. The Services replied with a smart effort by Odbert, who ran to Ash, but the latter spoiled the pass by knocking the ball forward.

#### A PLUCKY FIGHT.

Considering their weakened ranks the City were putting up a plucky fight, though the balance of play was with the Services. Clever play by James put Gloucester well down the field, but weakness in fielding from a forward rush allowed the home team to clear.

Sladen was sent away on the left, but was overwhelmed, and centre play followed. The City shone with neat passing, but Loveridge was upset by Buckley and nothing resulted.

#### A BRILLIANT TRY.

Mistakes in handling lost the Services a possible opening, and Gloucester made ground as the result of further fumbling by the Services' backs. Loveridge dribbled ahead and tackled Buckley in possession. This effort gave the City a good attacking position, and clever work by Stephens saw JAMES break away brilliantly, and doubling inside Miers, scored a fine try behind the posts. James converted and Gloucester led by five points.

The Services went off with great dash on resuming, but they were successfully checked. Gloucester passed neatly, and Loveridge made a dashing effort, but could not get past Buckley, his pass inside [going] astray.

#### ANOTHER SPLENDID TRY.

Gloucester kept up the pressure and from a long line out Meadows secured and there was a fine chance, but his pass was dropped. Gloucester, however, added to their lead immediately after, Meadows and JAMES combining in a beautiful bit of play. The acting captain went clean through and giving Miers the dummy, scored behind the posts, The same player converted. This was a splendid try and heartily applauded. Gloucester had all the better of matters up to the interval.

HALF-TIME :  
GLOUCESTER ..... 2 goals  
SERVICES ..... Nil

Gloucester had played fine football for ten minutes before the interval and attacked repeatedly. With a bit of luck two more tries might have been added. The movement which led to James's second try was a tit-bit and was cleverly worked out between the two players. Forward the Services had more of the ball in the scrums, but the backs were not together, and with fewer chances Gloucester were far more effective. The City had had the benefit of the wind. Even allowing for this advantage, they had given a surprisingly good show.

The second half opened with Gloucester doing capital work, the forwards dribbling well, and Orpin bringing off a smart run. An infringement, however, resulted in a penalty being given against the visitors, and the Services punted to Ash, who had his return charged down, the ball going to touch.

#### ANOTHER TRUE EFFORT.

The City started an attack on the left with Loveridge, but the ball went astray, and the home team sent to the other end. Gloucester quickly came away and Meadows, opening out and passing, ended in James being given possession. The latter made a fine effort to cross in the corner, but was tackled outside.

#### DESPERATE EFFORTS BEATEN BACK.

Gloucester worked desperately to effect another score, but they were beaten off, and a sharp run by Buckley, after passing, carried him 40 yards before he was upset by Ash; a very sound tackle. The City improved, and Stephens cut through nicely but spoiled the effort by a poor pass. Then the Services had a turn, following the interception of a Gloucester pass by Armytage, but the latter's transfer was not accepted.

Some desperate forward work followed, the City pack sticking to their opponents well.

Good kicking by the Services put them close, and the ball coming out to the backs, it was got quickly across to BUCKLEY, who dashed over in the far corner and knocked the touch flag over, but got the ball down for a try. Sladen failed at the goal kick.

#### FAULTY JUDGMENT.

Play was keener than ever on the restart, with little in it. Gloucester were getting the ball fairly well in the scrums, and some nice movements were initiated, but there was just that bit of judgment missing in giving the final transfer.

#### A BRILLIANT RUN.

Meadows was conspicuous with a brilliant run straight up the field to the full back, but with the opening made Orpin knocked on. Gloucester kept pluckily to their task, and Price was nearly through with a dashing effort. He was tackled heavily and hurt his shoulder, but was able to continue.

From inside the Services' half, Sowman kicked through to Ash, who had his punt charged down, and the home team were placed on the attack. Good tackling, however, stopped a promising handling movement. Price now went off, Stephens going to scrum half and Hemming playing centre.

Dashing forward work by the City carried the ball over the home line, but Miers gained the touch.

The closing stages were desperately contested, but the seven City forwards held on gamely. Right on time FORD scored for the Services, Sladen converting with the last kick of the match.

RESULT :  
GLOUCESTER ... 2 goals (10 points)  
SERVICES ..... 1 goal 1 try (8 points)

#### REMARKS.

Considering their depleted ranks and the fact that Price was off the field during the last 10 minutes, Gloucester's win was a wonderfully fine performance. It was a triumph for the reserves, especially the forwards, who put up a splendid show against resolute opponents.

In the early stages the City were beaten for possession in the scrums, but they improved considerably, and afterwards had a fair share of the ball. The whole eight worked grandly, and the tackling was a special feature.

Price and Meadows combined nicely at half-back, the latter making some splendid openings. James was the best player behind but Stephens and Loveridge did a lot of good work, and Orpin showed improvement. Ash was a bit shaky at full-back, but made no serious error.

CITY SECONDS BEATEN.

DESPITE SECOND HALF PRESSURE.

A POOR GAME.

The demands of the first team weakened Gloucester A for their match this afternoon against Monmouth, at Kingsholm, but R. C. Thompson, who could not make the journey to Portsmouth appeared at full back; G. Critchley, G. Welshman and P. Edwards also came into the team.

Monmouth brought a fairly strong team, and on paper it appeared that the City Seconds would have their work cut out to win. Last season the corresponding game was drawn. The ground was firm and a strong breeze blew towards the Worcester-street end of the ground. Mr. J. O. Jones controlled the game.

### THE GAME.

Gloucester kicked off against the wind and pressed immediately. Thompson picked up in midfield and set the threes going. Abbey and Critchley handled, but the latter after selling a dummy was pulled down near the line. With a series of forward rushes Monmouth gained the home 25. Gloucester were awarded a free for an off-side infringement, and the forwards dribbled smartly to the other end. So far the play was rather scrappy and neither team could settle down. Following a scrum on the home line, BARTER touched down for Monmouth and Short converted.

Gloucester were confined to their own half, and a fine forward rush by the visitors compelled Shelley to touch down behind his own line. Short broke away, but was pulled up when a score for the visitors seemed imminent.

Half-time :

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Monmouth .....     | 1 goal |
| Gloucester A ..... | Nil    |

From a line out the home threes got going but Critchley failed to pass to his wing man before being tackled. From a line out FISHER burst through and scored, Thompson's kick failing.

Play was mostly confined to the forwards and although Gloucester pressed for some time they did not often look dangerous, and the threes saw little of the ball. Gloucester were awarded a free and Voyce tried a place kick but failed badly. The home forwards pressed hard but Monmouth played a hard game and kept them well out.



Shelley set the threes going, but Hough was tackled before he could make headway. Shelley was too well marked to get the ball away often. Thompson relieved a break-away by Monmouth with an excellent touch-finder. Excitement was intense when Gloucester dribbled down to the visitors' line in fine style, but the Monmouth forwards again relieved brilliantly.

Result :

Monmouth ..... 1 goal (5 points)  
Gloucester A ..... 1 try (3 points)

Comments.

The game was disappointing. Gloucester had several chances in the second half, but failed to make use of them. The threes were seldom served, and when they did receive the ball could do little with it.