

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1929

GLOUCESTER 8 Pts., NEWPORT 6 Pts.

CITY'S NOTABLE WIN.

GREAT STRUGGLE AND EXCITING FINISH.

GLOUCESTER'S DEFENCE OUTSTANDING FEATURE.

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester put up their two best performances last season against Newport, drawing at Newport, in a remarkable scoring game of 19 points each, and winning the return at Kingsholm by 15 points to 5. It was in those two matches Jack Stephens greatly distinguished himself. What would happen today ?

Newport have not enjoyed their usual run of successes this year, due largely to the continual changes in the back division, but against Llanelly last week the team showed a lot of their old brilliance and practically the same Fifteen were selected to oppose Gloucester this afternoon.

There were several players in the side, new to a Kingsholm crowd, including R. Edwards and L. Lewis at three-quarter, and R. Carter at outside half. The forwards were a formidable set, and the City pack were likely to be fully extended.

Gloucester were greatly strengthened by the return of Roy James, McCanlis and Crichton-Miller, and there was confidence in the

home team making a considerable improvement on the showing against Cheltenham last Saturday.

One of the most attractive fixtures on the City Club's card, it was unfortunate that the weather conditions were again unfavourable. Rain fell heavily all the morning, and though there were bright intervals later many keen followers of the game refrained from taking the risk of getting a drenching. The gate accordingly suffered, as was the case last week. There was a late change in the Gloucester team – F. Russell displacing Joe Davies forward. The visitors' side was as chosen.

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : Roy James, M. A. McCanlis, E. W. Lovegrove, and L. Abbey.

HALF-BACKS : F. Price and E. Stephens.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby (captain), F. Russell, A. Carpenter, F. Wadley, J. Hemming, E. Comley, G. Foulkes, and D. Crichton-Miller.

NEWPORT.

BACK : W. A. Everson.

THREE-QUARTERS : J. C. Morley, J. R. Edwards, L. Lewis, K. Watkins.

HALF-BACKS : R. Carter and C. J. Jerman.

FORWARDS : H. V. Phillips (capt.), H. C. Day, R. C. Herrera, W. C. Morgan, H. W. Peacock, F. H. S. Evans, P. F. Bunce, and W. Jackson.

Referee : Mr. Stanley Budd (Somerset Union).

THE GAME.

Considering the amount of rain that had fallen in the last twenty-four hours, the playing pitch, though soddened, was in wonderful condition compared with some grounds. With the prospect of more storms, the stand accommodation was well patronised, but there were comparatively few on the Dean's Walk bank, and in the open on the sides of the enclosure.

Phillips started for Newport from the Worcester street goal, but the ball failed to go ten yards and a scrum followed at the centre. The visitors heeled, and Carter punted high to Boughton, who marked, and got in a nice kick to Morley, who had to send to touch.

Gloucester next got the ball out, and the ball came across to James, who was collared at once. The ball became loose, and Newport kicked through, but Boughton saved finely. The City again got going, and Lovegrove ran and punted across, but though he put his men on side the home forwards hesitated about going for the ball, and allowed Everson to clear.

Near mid-field Morley brought off a dashing run down touch, and passed, but a later transfer went forward. Newport being penalised for off-side Gloucester relieved, and centre-play ensued. Both sides tried to open out, but Lovegrove slipped once just as he had cleared his immediate opponent.

HANDLING DIFFICULT.

The players found the ball difficult to control, and mistakes occurred on both sides in handling. Gloucester took advantage of a mishandle by Morley, and dribbled away, but they were checked before becoming dangerous. Heeling by the visitors enabled the backs to take part in a passing bout, but Watkins, the last to receive, was beautifully tackled by James. From a line-out Newport broke away strongly and went right under the Gloucester posts, where Boughton damaged his

hand in effecting a save. Having received attention from the ambulance[*sic*], he was able to resume.

Matters were dangerous for the City with a scrum ten yards outside the line; and Carter receiving made a determined run to get through, being held up in time. Crichton-Miller, picking up, passed to Boughton, who found touch with a beauty half the length of the field. Back Newport came with clever back play, but the tackling was too good.

CRICHTON-MILLER PROMINENT.

Crichton-Miller changed the situation with a strong dash which the forwards backed up, but Newport recovered with good kicking. Gloucester lost a good slice of ground through off-side, and then came a nice round of passing by the Newport backs. Watkins ran splendidly, but fell to a tackle by McCanlis. He passed inside to a forward who accepted but knocked on, and lost a good opening.

KEEN FORWARD PLAY.

Crichton-Miller was again to the fore with a splendid solo dribble, but at the finish the ball turned to touch. Keen forward play followed with little advantage to either side. There was some fine work by both packs, Gloucester holding their own splendidly. Hemming and Crichton-Miller went away splendidly, and Everson was beaten. Another forward picked up and passed, but an opponent got back and effected a smothering tackle.

Gloucester were now playing strongly, and the Newport defence was given a hot time. Stephens and Lovegrove kept the City well inside their opponents' 25, and there were several attempts to break through. Lovegrove also had hard lines with a drop at goal.

GLOUCESTER OPEN THE SCORING.

Keeping up the pressure the City front combined in a great effort. They took the ball close to the line, where COMLEY picked up, and with a splendid burst got the ball over the line with the first try. The place was an easy one, but Boughton sent wide of the upright.

NEWPORT EQUALISE.

Resuming, play was desperately keen, with some very hard, though perfectly legitimate tackling. Gloucester were holding their formidable opponents well, and there was little in it. Newport opened out several times, but they could not find an opening, though Morley tried hard.

Next the Gloucester backs had the ball, but Price's pass went astray, and Newport kicked through. Jerman came up fast, and gathering, passed to WATKINS, who slipped over with a neat try. From Everson's shot for goal the ball hit the upright, and went outside. The teams were thus level.

GLOUCESTER'S DETERMINED EFFORTS.

Restarting, a mis-kick by Stephens placed the ball in the hands of Jackson, and Newport had a fine chance, but it was missed. A penalty to Gloucester enabled the home team to get past the centre, where Everson was at fault in fielding a punt from Stephens. Lewis came across and saved, but only got the ball straight to touch with James close up.

Gloucester worked tremendously to regain the lead, and the Newport defence was subjected to terrific pressure. Crichton-Miller, Price and Foulkes all tried to get through, but were held up. It was exciting football with the City well on top.

Keeping up the attack James and McCanlis combined in a neat bit of play, but when the vice-captain received the ball back he was held

by the leg, and a good chance of scoring was lost. This infringement was not noticed by the referee, who was unsighted, but it was obvious to the crowd.

Gloucester continued to hold the upper hand, and nearly scored through James, whose final pass went astray.

Just before the interval Morley snapped up a dropped pass and raced away to the Gloucester end, but nothing resulted.

HALF-TIME :
GLOUCESTER 1 try
NEWPORT 1 try

Gloucester had held a big advantage for ten minutes before the interval, and only a superb defence by Newport kept their line intact. It was a great struggle forward, with the City on top in the later stages. Behind, both sides had accomplished some capital work.

Gloucester restarted strongly, and at once obtained a good position, but they were sent back to the centre with a fine kick. The City here opened out play, but the players were bunched too closely, and Lovegrove was tackled in possession. Jerman gathered and started a likely movement, but it was effectively checked by sound tackling.

MORLEY'S FINE TRY.

Gloucester moved ahead, and McCanlis being served, burst through beautifully and passed. The City backs, however, failed to take advantage. Immediately after the Newport outsides were off, but a great tackle by McCanlis stopped the attack.

Again the visitors were set going, and though it failed temporarily MORLEY secured. With a fine run the Welsh International beat the defence and scored near the posts, his effort being loudly

applauded. Everson missed the goal points, though the position was an easy one.

A flying kick by McCanlis, on the resumption put Gloucester ahead, but Everson fielded nicely and returned to touch and the same player again checked when things looked dangerous for his side.

Newport were having the better of the exchanges, when Lovegrove, in effecting a dash through, was heavily upset and knocked out. He had to be assisted off the field, and Gloucester continued a man short. James played centre three-quarter and Foulkes came out on the wing.

Gloucester made progress with useful kicks, and then Lovegrove returned amidst cheers.

GLOUCESTER REGAIN THE LEAD.

Boughton, fielding a return by Everson, ran across the field and punted, Morley being tackled by Abbey as soon as he fielded. In a rough scramble later a visitor kicked Abbey on the ground and was spoken to by the referee amidst loud shouts of "send him off," from the spectators. The incident, however, was allowed to pass.

Gloucester getting a free-kick, Boughton had a shot for goal, but missed. Lewis misfielded near the line, and a scrum was ordered. Here PRICE gathered when his forwards heeled, and beating the defence scored wide out, great excitement prevailing. This was renewed when Boughton converted and gave the City a lead of two points.

GREAT EXCITEMENT.

Gloucester played with renewed vigour on the restart, and early on Hemming broke away from a line out with Russell in

attendance. With only Everson to beat, however, Hemming threw forward. Gloucester again pressed through James, but the attack was beaten off, and Newport took up the attack. The Welshmen threw the ball about in the hope of getting the desired opening, but things did not go kindly. Still Newport did not slacken their efforts, only a wonderful tackle by Boughton of Morley, in the corner, stopped a try.

Newport were doing all the attacking now, and the Gloucester defenders were continually on the go. Still the line held out, and Boughton gained relief with a touch finder.

The closing stages were contested amidst tremendous excitement, the City defence being hotly assailed. Try as they would Newport could not beat the defence, though they got very close. It was a terrific struggle between attack and defence, but the latter held out and a memorable game ended in favour of Gloucester by two points.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal 1 try (8 pts.)
NEWPORT 2 tries (6 pts.)

REMARKS.

It was a notable win for Gloucester, and the struggle all through recalled many such stirring contests between these old rivals, The last quarter of an hour furnished the most exciting football, Newport's repeated attacks on either flank meeting with a defence that was simply wonderful at times.

Newport carried off the honours this afternoon for the cleverest football, and I have rarely seen a side so continually on the aggressive as they were in the closing ten minutes, and yet fail to score.

Every conceivable method of attack was engineered in those hectic minutes. Movements were started from almost impossible positions. First to the left, then to the right, followed by the straight cut

through, players tried their hardest to find a breach in the defence, but though going desperately close on several occasions the winning score evaded them. It was one long period of the most exciting exchanges witnessed at Kingsholm for a long time.

Gloucester deserved their hard-earned victory this afternoon for their magnificent defensive efforts in the last quarter. Previous to these assaults the City had quite held their own on the play; for several minutes prior to the interval the home team were clearly in the ascendant.

The forwards bore the brunt of the battle to-day, and the attacks and counter attacks by the rival packs were something to be remembered. There was one period early in the second half, when in a heated moment a visitor lost his head, but fortunately the incident did not develop, and there was little to complain about otherwise.

Gloucester gave little away in the scrums, and at times got the ball back as often as their opponents. In the loose, some splendid work was witnessed, and one player who stood out was Crichton-Miller.

The old Cambridge Blue was always a source of trouble to the visitors, being fast on the ball, tackling effectively and dribbling with excellent judgment.

Saxby, Foulkes, Hemming and Comley all shone at intervals, but they had the full backing of their colleagues, and Carpenter excelled in the close work. It was a fine all-round performance.

Outside the scrum, Newport had the smarter set; they handled with more precision, and were a combination to be feared by less experienced defenders. Price had quite a good afternoon against Jerman, and he showed praiseworthy determination in going for the line for that equalising try.

Stephens, whilst helpful, was not consistent, and he had one or two bad periods. In the centre, McCanlis and Lovegrove displayed splendid dash and nothing better than the former's collaring of the rival wings when racing for the line was seen during the match.

James also did well in this department in the first half, but the vice-captain was not given many chances in attack. Abbey was not seen to much advantage.

Boughton and Everson both performed finely at full-back, and on the day there was not a great deal to choose between them.

The Newport three-quarters were enterprising, fast and clever, and Morley was very dangerous. He scored his try without being touched, and in face of what happened generally in the way of tackling, this was remarkable.

Jerman and Carter displayed good combination at half-back and in a pack noticeable for keen backing up and constructive football, Morgan, Herrera, and Phillips were very prominent.

Next week : Guy's Hospital, at Kingsholm.

GLOUCESTER A v. NEWPORT A.

WELSHMEN HOLD THE UPPER HAND.

CITY SECONDS WELL BEATEN.

Played at Newport.

Gloucester kicked off, and in a few minutes Pittman rushed away and was nearly through when he gave a forward pass to Voyce. From a line-out Newport went away, and Walkey crossed for a try, which was converted by Price.

Loose play in the Gloucester half followed and Newport were nearly over when James was tackled, and Gloucester conceded a minor. From a scrummage the home forwards dribbled the ball down the field, and only a smart tap to touch by Pittman saved the situation for Gloucester.

So far skilled play had been impossible on account of the muddy state of the field and the greasiness of the ball. The Gloucester threes' handling was often at fault, and many opportunities were thrown away. They compared unfavourably with the opposing quartet. The visiting forwards, too, were frequently off-side.

Half-time :

Newport A 1 goal

Gloucester A Nil

Newport attacked early in the second half, and Lyle, who eluded Loveridge and brushed past Ash, score a good unconverted try.

Newport were better together, and the Gloucester forwards were inclined to ignore the offside rule. At length their rushes were rewarded, when Loveridge took a good pass and ran strongly to score an unconverted try.

The packs were well matched, and although Newport generally held the upper hand D. Meadows, at outside half, passed neatly and made a couple of strong bursts.

The visitors' weak link was at full-back, for Ash kicked and tackled poorly.

Towards the end Lyle raced the length of the field to score a good try, which Price converted.

Result :

Newport A 2 goals 1 try (13 pts.)
Gloucester A 1 try (3 pts.)

JC