

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1929

GLOUCESTER 19 pts. GUY'S HOSPITAL 3 pts.

SOME FINE FOOTBALL AT KINGSHOLM.

McCANLIS AND JAMES IN SPLENDID FORM.

GUY'S SECOND HALF RECOVERY.

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester revised their back division for the match against Guy's Hospital, at Kingsholm to-day. Stephens was placed at centre three-quarter, and it was intended to play Lovegrove at outside half, but the Old Cheltonian was required for Oxford University, and Don Meadows was given the vacancy.

Meadows is the old schoolboy International and has been doing well for the A team. He had a trial for the Seniors two seasons ago and played in eleven matches.

With the exception that Joe Davies returned to the home forward ranks in place of Russell there were no further changes from the team which triumphed over Newport last week.

The Hospital fielded their strongest side of the season, Windsor Lewis, the Welsh International and former Cambridge fly-half, making his first appearance after his long illness. A new centre three-quarter was also introduced in J. E. Geisen, a New Zealander. In addition to the captain, T. G. Robinson (who plays regularly for

Surrey), other County players in the side were, L. Wailer (Durham), J. R. Popplewell (Kent), and R. A. P. Hogbin (Middlesex).

J. Howell, the scrum half, will be remembered as having assisted Gloucester in several games, three years ago. Altogether the visitors presented a formidable opposition, and Gloucester were fully expected to be extended.

Rain fell heavily during the morning, but fortunately the afternoon turned bright. The early kick-off (2.45), however was against a big attendance.

GLOUCESTER.

BACK: H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS: R. N. Loveridge, E. Stephens, M. A. McCanlis, and Roy James.

HALF-BACKS: F. Price and Don Meadows.

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

GUY'S HOSPITAL.

BACK: L. Wailer.

THREE-QUARTERS: T. G. Robinson (capt.), J. E. Geisen, L. K. Thomas, and G. N. Cooper.

HALF-BACKS: J. Howell and Windsor H. Lewis.

FORWARDS: J. R. F. Popplewell, C. D. Malone, R. A. P. Hogbin, T. Morgan, J. S. Batchelor, J. P. O'Shea, G. F. Lashmore, and L. I. S. Campbell.

Referee: Mr. J. Southby.

THE GAME.

From Guy's kick-off the ball went to Boughton, but the latter's kick was partly charged down and went straight to touch. From the early scrum the City forwards heeled, and the ball was got away sharply, but the movement broke down before getting dangerous.

Gloucester gradually worked into an attacking position, and Davies opened out from the loose, but there had been a previous infringement, and "scrum down" was ordered. Guy's made useful relief through Lewis, but Meadows punted back, the ball rolling luckily to touch.

A GREAT GOAL BY BOUGHTON.

The City again opened out, but Stephens missed from McCanlis, and the visitors benefitted. More mistakes in handling followed, and Guy's gained a footing in the home half. Here Price shot out a good pass to Meadows, and Stephens and McCanlis in turn handled. The latter made a beautiful burst through and secured a fine opening, but Loveridge was too far in the rear. McCanlis took the alternative and punted ahead, but a Hospital man secured and sent to touch. Guy's kicked out of danger, but off-side gave Gloucester a penalty, and with a grand kick from near half-way BOUGHTON landed a goal.

A CLEVER TRY.

Resuming, play was fast at the centre, the visitors twice getting the ball away nicely, but the backs could not make much progress. Boughton shone with a good left-foot punt to touch, and later Stephens broke through nicely, but slipped, and his pass was intercepted.

Gloucester, however, were on the attack again immediately through Davies, who opened out cleverly, but it failed to eventuate.

Later the ball came across to James, who cut inside, and then gave a pass to McCANLIS, who had come outside. The latter raced hard for the line and scored a clever try. Boughton made a grand attempt at conversion from the touch-line.

Both teams played open football on the resumption, and some clever work was accomplished though the finishing was none too good. Robinson was sent away on one occasion, but lost the ball, though Price was on him and effected a good tackle.

ELEVEN POINTS UP.

It was keen and interesting football, with Gloucester doing the better work. Stephens spoiled a promising movement by passing too quickly to McCanlis, and afterwards fumbling lost ground. With a fine burst, Hemming and Crichton-Miller being prominent, Gloucester got well away, and Wailer was hard pressed.

Heeling, the City forwards gave Price a chance, and the ball came quickly to McCanlis. The centre cut out a fine opening, but was partly tackled, and his pass went slightly astray. JAMES, however, recovered, and though aided with a bit of luck in gathering the ball, he slipped the full-back easily and scored near the posts. Boughton added the goal points, and Gloucester were eleven points up.

ANOTHER SMART TRY.

Play on the resumption favoured Gloucester, but the City players did not get the best of luck. Boughton was prominent with some effective kicking, and Hemming, getting back on one occasion, brought off a good clearance. Stephens had hard lines in not getting clear after good work, and Loveridge shared similarly on the left wing.

Gradually Gloucester assumed the upper hand, and near the centre Hemming picked up from a scrummage and came round the blind

side. The visitors were caught napping, and Hemming, giving the dummy cleverly, raced to the full back. A pass to JAMES was accepted and the rest was easy, the vice-captain scoring wide out. Boughton converted with a magnificent kick.

Gloucester now held the substantial lead of 16 points, but the City did not relax their efforts. The forwards were playing cleverly in the open and the backs, though things went unkindly at times, were convincing. Risks were also taken which were unnecessary. James twice distinguished himself with great tackles of Robinson when the latter was in his stride, and all round the Hospital were well held.

Davies broke away finely and started passing, but the ball was dropped, though the mistake was recovered. Gloucester had the better of the exchanges to the interval, but failed to add to their score.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER 3 goals (1 p.) 1 try
GUY'S Nil

Gloucester had displayed clever football in all departments, and the 16 points to nil did not exaggerate their superiority. Guy's played a hard, keen game, but the backs were weak at centre. Windsor Lewis, too, showed evident signs of lack of practice. So far Meadows had been a success at outside-half, his delivery of passes being well judged.

BEAUTIFUL MOVEMENT CHECKED.

Guy's restarted with vigour, and early on Lewis was conspicuous with a cut through, but his pass was not taken. The ball came quickly across to the other wing where Loveridge shone with a smart bit of work.

Then came a beautiful movement by the City backs, all of whom handled. McCanlis came outside James to receive for the second time, and cross-punted nicely. But Wailer fielded with the Gloucester

forwards on top of him, and relieved. The same player again did capital work in fielding a short punt ahead by Comley and getting in his kick.

Gloucester continued to hold the ascendancy, but a lot of good work went unrewarded. The Guy's forwards battled strongly in the tight and tackled well, but they were able to do little in concentrated attack.

From a pass got away from a loose scrum, Meadows gathered cleverly, and went ahead. He eventually punted, but Wailer was again a stumbling block. Having been forced to touch down, Guy's improved on the drop out, aided by a lucky interception of a pass by Meadows. The City quickly changed the situation, James shining with a brilliant run. He came through to the full-back, but his pass to Saxby was forward, with an open field.

GUY'S OPEN THEIR ACCOUNT.

Gloucester had failed to add to their lead this half, but Guy's had some narrow escapes. Wadley started a likely movement from the loose which was checked by another interception, and then Loveridge forced a minor with an attempt to drop a goal. Guy's came away on the restart, but McCanlis got back and saved in capital style. Things did not go well for the City in subsequent play, and Guy's were quick to take advantage of any mistakes.

A splendid round of passing by the Guy's backs saw Cooper making a big dash for the corner. He was baulked, however, and a colleague to whom he passed was upset. Still the effort gave the Hospital a good position, and Gloucester being penalised, HOGBIN kicked a fine goal.

GLOUCESTER ADD TO THEIR LEAD.

The visitors had deserved some reward for their keen work, and on the restart they redoubled their energies. Play, however, went in favour of the City, who attacked strongly on the right.

A well-judged cross-kick by James put the Gloucester forwards in position, but a visitor robbed the City man of the ball and cleared in remarkable style.

Ensuing play was all in favour of Gloucester, but the City were not very happy in finishing off attacks. James, after good passing, shot away in great style, and sent the ball across perfectly for the forwards, but the chance was not accepted. Then Meadows passed forward on the line with a certain try in view.

Gloucester, however, still kept up the pressure. They were at length rewarded, PRICE diving over from a scrum near the line. Boughton missed the goal points.

The last few minutes provided some fine football, the Gloucester backs coming into the picture with some excellent work. McCanlis was distinguished with a couple of fine runs, but with possible scores in view infringements in passing occurred. Guy's relieved and when the final arrived play was at midfield.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 3 goals (1 p.) 2 tries (19 pts.)
GUY'S HOSPITAL 1 goal (p.) (3 pts.)

REMARKS.

The feature of to-day's game was the brilliant form of McCanlis and Roy James, who though not playing immediately together, brought off some of the best bits of combination seen in the match. The Old Oxford Blue has done nothing better for Gloucester in attack, and

James excelled in tackling, his close marking of Robinson never giving the Hospital captain the slightest chance.

Gloucester's display in the first half was especially convincing, and with a little more finish and judgment, after openings had been worked out, the score against Guy's (16 points) would have been appreciably augmented. The Hospital recovered somewhat in the second half, and were more aggressive, but the majority of the attacks originated from mistakes in passing by home players or interceptions. The City's failing this afternoon was a tendency, after gaining a substantial lead, to take risks and these did not always come off; in one or two instances possible scores were lost.

But with this exception, Gloucester's display this afternoon was the most convincing in attack I have seen this season. Guy's had a strong pack – players who scrummaged well – but they were beaten for the most part in the tight, and in the open some brilliant work was accomplished. Davies brought off several splendid runs, and a repeat of to-day's form should bring the City forward into prominence in the Trial.

Next to Davies, Hemming was the most prominent, and he introduced some clever moves which had the defence guessing. That one effort which led to James' try, was very cheeky. How he got the ball away was a mystery to me.

The City pack fully realised the advantage of opening up from the loose, and there were many smart movements initiated. The whole pack were well together in several dashing bursts, in which Crichton-Miller and Comley were prominent. The players did not enjoy the best of luck on one or two occasions, when the defence was apparently beaten.

Behind a vigorous and clever set, Price gave a good account of himself at scrum-half. He got his transfers away quicker and with more judgment, and Meadows rarely failed to make the most of his

opportunities. The A teamer has the proper football sense, and to his capital all-round work the improvement behind was largely due. On this afternoon's showing Meadows should be given a further chance in the position.

The Gloucester three-quarters were the stronger line with McCanlis and James greatly distinguished. The centre was the most dangerous man on the field, and he made some lovely runs. He fully appreciated the advantage of the extra man when an attack was in progress, and was across the field in quick time to take the transfer from James.

The latter is just now at his very best, and that means trouble to the opposition. James' tackling of Robinson was immense, and not once during the match could the Hospital man evade his opponent. Stephens was inclined to fumble his passes, but he got through a lot of useful work, and Loveridge shaped well at times.

Boughton was not overtaxed at full-back, but he kicked finely, and two of his goal-kicks were fine efforts. Wailer, on the opposite side, had far more work to do, and he did not fail. He cleared several times in the face of great pressure, and his catching was excellent.

Guy's backs were not up to the old standard, and the centres were weak in defence in the early stages. Cooper ran well, and was more effective on the day than Robinson. Howell played a dogged game at inside-half, but it was clear Windsor Lewis had not fully shaken off the effects of his illness, and long absences from the game. The forwards kept going to the finish, with Hogbin, Popplewell and Campbell perhaps the best.

Next week : Gloucester v. United Services, at Portsmouth;
Gloucester A. v. Monmouth, at Kingsholm.

F. Wadley has been notified he is on the reserve for the English trial.

JC