

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1935

GLOUCESTER 21 Pts., LYDNEY 3

EDWARDS SHOWS SPLENDID FORM IN OPENING GAME

TWO FINE TRIES BY OLD WYCLIFFIAN

LYDNEY FORWARDS GIVE TROUBLE

Prominent players were missing from the ranks of the Gloucester team for the opening match of the season at Kingsholm, but the side fielded prove too good for Lydney, who met with their second successive defeat.

Gloucester fielded the selected side – the best available at present – but Hordern and Carpenter, and probably Roy James, will turn out later.

Lydney, not satisfied with the performance against Monmouth, made several changes, recalling T. Wellington to partner W. Thomas, the new captain, at half-back.

Showery weather prevailed, but there was a satisfactory attendance, between 3,000 and 4,000, for the first fixture.

There was a great rush on season tickets before the match.

The teams were : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK: H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS: J. R. Haines, J. C. Brooks (capt.), F. G. Edwards, and R. E. Hook.

HALF-BACKS: C. Fifield and Don Meadows.

FORWARDS: C. Harris, T. Price, K. Smith, J. G. A'Bear, R. Morris, L. Franklin, A. Welshman, and Ivor Williams.

LYDNEY

BACK: B. Wood.

THREE-QUARTERS: C. Sysum, R. Organ, W. Richards, and J. Symonds.

HALF-BACKS: T. Wellington and W. Thomas (capt.).

FORWARDS: J. Willis, F. Dovey, W. Willcox, F. Williams, S. Cox, S. Nelmes, A. Nelmes, and T. Roe.

REFEREE: Mr. G. Hale (Bristol).

THE GAME

The ground was in fine condition and with the splendid stand accommodation spectators were amply provided for in the event of rain.

Lydney kicked off, and the visitors, starting off at a fast pace, gave early trouble. The City backs made one or two attempts to open out, but they were not attended with success.

Failing to field allowed the Lydney forwards to dribble away dangerously, but Boughton made a daring save. A penalty to Gloucester saw Boughton put in a long touch-finder, and a little later Hook was also distinguished with a well-judged punt to the visitors' 25.

Gloucester were now in an attacking position, and Fifield got the ball away, but Meadows failed to hold, and a promising movement was checked.

OPENING TRY BY FRANKLIN

Keen tackling by Lydney was the next feature, but Gloucester persevered in the attack. From some loose play Williams opened out, and Meadows, Edwards and Brooks handled neatly.

The captain served Haines, who went hard for the line but fell to a good tackle by Wood and Symonds.

Lydney kept the game moving, the forwards showing up well in the loose. Then from a kick down the field Meadows received and ran across to the left and passed.

Brooks carried on with a sharp break through and pass to Edwards. The latter put in a clever cross-kick to the goal mouth and FRANKLIN coming along, gathered and scored easily.

Boughton converted, and Gloucester were five points up.

BOUGHTON IN FORM

Resuming play was fast and keen. Boughton saved twice from the Lydney forwards and put in grand kicks, but the visitors came back with loose work.

Boughton once had to race back to save, which he did effectively, and then Lydney were penalised. The kick brought relief to Gloucester, who later broke away with a passing run, but a forward transfer spoilt it.

MEADOWS' FAULTY HANDLING

Gloucester were getting the ball out fairly often, but so far Meadows had not been altogether happy in his handling. Another movement broke down, and then Thomas shot away with a nice run and pass for Lydney. A punt ahead, however, went to touch.

HARD LINES, BOUGHTON

A dash by Hook, who intercepted an opponent's pass, was finished with a kick ahead to touch close to the Lydney line. The visitors worked out a few yards, but suffered another penalty.

Boughton took a shot for goal from an acute angle, and landed a lovely goal, but a forward was in front of the kicker, and the points were disallowed – hard lines for Boughton.

BUT SUCCESS COMES LATER

Gloucester kept up the pressure, but failed to find an opening.

Success, however, came with a penalty kicked by Boughton from 40 yards out. It was another grand shot, and indicated the International had fully retained his wonderful goal-kicking powers.

EDWARDS' FINE EFFORT

Loose forward work by Lydney carried play to the home 25, and the visitors exerting pressure went near. Edwards tried to clear, but had his kick charged down, the ball rolling to the dead ball line. From the scrum five yards out, Meadows cleared with an effective punt, and Gloucester were in more favourable quarters. From some loose play Haines secured and kicked across, and the ball falling between Organ and Sysum, EDWARDS raced up and gathered in his stride.

He went clear away from the opposition, and though stumbling in the last few yards finished a fine run by scoring between the posts. Boughton added the goal points, and the tally was 13–0 in favour of Gloucester.

LYDNEY'S BAD LUCK

Lydney were by no means discouraged, and restarted with vigour. Boughton, however, was always a stumbling block to the visiting forwards. Once from passing Symonds broke away and raced over the line, but the whistle had gone for a forward transfer – bad luck for the Foresters.

Gloucester worked out by good kicking, one high punt by Meadows being fumbled by Wood, who had the sun in his eyes. Williams tried hard to effect a score, but was overwhelmed by numbers near the line.

The Lydney defence was hotly assailed in the next few minutes, but held out. Meadows failed in a drop at goal, and there was no further scoring before the interval.

HALF-TIME :

Gloucester 3 goals (1p)
Lydney Nil

Lydney had put up a stronger fight than suggested by the score, but Gloucester were always the more enterprising side. The handling of the backs, however, was uncertain at times.

The visitors had the better of the opening stages on the restart, the forwards working with great spirit. Richards forced a minor with a kick over the line, and after the drop out play still favoured Lydney. There was a breakaway on the Gloucester right, with a pass inside to Brooks, but further progress was checked.

LYDNEY'S STRONG ATTACK

Working well together Lydney, led by Willis, attacked strongly, and only stout tackling saved the City. The Gloucester forwards were rattled for a few minutes, and failing to get the ball in the scrums, the home team were placed strictly on the defence. A long kick eventually brought relief, and Morris further improved with a strong run and punt ahead. Wood, however, gathered, and saved the situation.

THREE POINTS FOR LYDNEY

Gloucester improved in the next few minutes, and there was a possible chance, but Lydney's tackling was very deadly. Play did not hover long in the visitors' 25, and Boughton, getting a kick charged down, Lydney were on the offensive again.

Inside their 25, Gloucester were penalised, and Thomas taking the kick landed a nice goal – a well-deserved success, for so far in this half Lydney had been distinctly on top.

FINISH LACKING

Soon after the resumption Organ retired for attention for nose bleeding, but Lydney kept up their spirited play. Gloucester once or twice moved in promising style, but the final judgment in handling was bad, and possible openings for the wings were lost.

A combined burst by the City front was splendidly stopped by Richards, who wriggled free from several opponents and got in a strong kick. There was a spell of scrappy play in the next few minutes, finish on both sides being sadly lacking.

MANY MISTAKES

Organ now returned, and the teams battled at full strength again. Gloucester took up the running again, and went very close through Edwards. Slips, however, followed, and these were succeeded by a succession of mistakes, which could only be excused by lack of practice. It was poor football just now, and the standard of football had deteriorated all round.

GLOUCESTER'S THIRD TRY

Boughton failed with [a] long shot (some 50 yards) from a penalty, but Gloucester, a little later scored. It was a pretty try initiated by Fifield, and carried on by Meadows, Brooks, Edwards and HOOK, the latter receiving the final pass to sprint over in the corner. Boughton made a fine effort at conversion, but missed.

After a brief visit to the home quarters . . .

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