

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1935

NORTHAMPTON 3 Pts., GLOUCESTER 0

WEAKENED SIDE SHOWS SPLENDID FORM

STIRRING STRUGGLE BETWEEN FORWARDS

Gloucester met with their first defeat of the season to-day, when they lost to Northampton at Franklin's Gardens. This was the fourth victory of the East Midlanders at the expense of the City team.

Owing to the inability of F. Edwards, Pugsley and Hook to travel, Gloucester had to re-arrange the three-quarter line, and in addition Carpenter and Ivor Williams are on the injured list.

Haines came back in place of Hook, and on the other wing L. Morris was called upon. A. B. Cook, the Old Cryptian, who has assisted Weston-super-Mare, was invited to play, but could not accept. R. Morris filled the vacancy caused by Carpenter's absence in the forwards.

Northampton fielded a strong team, especially forward, four Internationals being included in the selected pack. A. E. Brookes (the former Gloucester, Oxford University and London Welsh player) was also a stiff proposition at half-back.

## GLOUCESTER

FULL-BACK: H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS: L. Morris, J. C. Brooks (capt.), Roy James, and J. R. Haines.

HALF-BACKS: C. Fifield and Don Meadows.

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

## NORTHAMPTON

FULL-BACK: R. O. B. Baillon.

THREE-QUARTERS: A. R. Chorlton, W. A. Jackson, R. Nash, and D. King.

HALF-BACKS: W. C. Powell and A. E. Brookes.

FORWARDS: R. J. Longland, A. Longland, J. Dicks, T. Harris, W. Evans, W. H. Weston, P. C. Crick, and F. Garratt.

REFEREE: Mr. G. Warden (Leicester).

There was one late change in the Northampton team, Evans taking the place of T. Harris (forward).

The weather was dull, but the threatened rain kept off. There was an attendance of about 2,000 when the teams took the field.

## THE GAME

Boughton kicked off for Gloucester, and following exchange kicking the ball went to touch at the Northampton 25. Early on the home backs indulged in a passing bout, which gained 20 yards, and later Brookes found touch nicely inside the Gloucester 25.

A forceful burst by the Northampton forwards took play over the City line, where Brooks conceded a minor. Fast play followed, the home backs twice opening out, but Brookes was overwhelmed in trying to break through.

From a long kick down Meadows received and ran across, finally getting in a long, low punt, which was only poorly returned.

Again the Midland backs tried passing, and there was a cross-kick on the right. Boughton, however, ran in and gathered and dashed down the touch. He cross-punted in front of the posts. where Gloucester made a determined effort to cross the line.

## GLOUCESTER NEARLY IN

Northampton saved at the critical moment, but Brooks picked up and broke clear.

He passed to Haines, but the wing man was upset close in. The City attacked strongly, and there was some hot work in the corner.

In a desperate scramble Smith was laid out, but was able to resume after a couple of minutes.

Aided by a couple of penalty kicks, Northampton changed the position, and dashing work by the forwards placed Gloucester in danger. Franklin, however, effected a wonderful clearance.

Later Hordern placed Gloucester well up the field, but from the punt ahead Chorlton secured and started passing. King ran smartly, but he was finally checked in trying to cut inside.

For offside in the scrum Gloucester were penalised, but Baillon's shot for goal was just wide of the upright.

Meadows punted out, and again distinguished himself with a clever screw kick.

## SPIRITED PLAY

From another kick Baillon was collared in possession ten yards out, and Gloucester were in an attacking position. There were some spirited efforts which were not successful, and Northampton cleared with useful punts. Powerful work by the forwards gave the home team further ground, and Gloucester were subjected to severe pressure. The defence, however, held out.

Getting the better of the scrums, the Northampton backs were often in possession, and there were some neat handling bouts. Chorlton again shone in a strong run, and L. Morris saved from a serious position.

Well judged kicking by Meadows brought Gloucester relief, and Franklin further improved. When the ball came out to the backs, however, not much progress was made. Once Hordern had a possible chance of breaking through, but the ball dropped out of his arm.

It was fast football, with Northampton showing the more enterprise behind, but the visitors' kicking helped them appreciably.

#### REMARKABLE SAVE

From a pass by J. Brooks near midfield, James went away nicely, and short punted. There was a good chance to score, but King came across from the left wing and effected a remarkable save. From this point Northampton went to the other end with a passing run. Chorlton tried hard to get through, but was held in time.

Play favoured the East Midlanders for the next few minutes, but they could not find a gap in the defence. The interval arrived with the score sheet blank.

Half-time :

Gloucester ..... Nil

Northampton ..... Nil

Gloucester, with the side doing duty, had done remarkably well to hold their opponents as they did.

The forwards especially worked with splendid determination, and behind the individual efforts of Meadows, Brooks, James and Boughton were invaluable. As a combination, however, the East Midlanders were more effective, A. E. Brookes opening out cleverly.

From the Northampton restart a Gloucester forward had his return charged down, but James was in a position to gather, and sent to touch. For a few minutes Gloucester were heavily pressed, but a long punt found touch 50 yards down the field.

## LACK OF FINISH

This gave the City encouragement, and Northampton in turn were forced to defend. The visitors, however, lost their position, and the game went to the other end. Both sides had had moments of success, but finish was wanting with movements well in progress.

It was stirring football, especially with the forwards, and there were some hearty exchanges. Powell, breaking through from a scrum, reached Boughton, but Brookes, to whom he passed, was pulled down directly he received the ball. A fine touch-finder by Boughton from a penalty gave Gloucester some 40 yards, and encouraged, the City pressed hard. Once or twice Northampton were lucky in clearing with punts almost straight to touch.

## BAILLON'S PENALTY GOAL

Eventually a short forward pass took them to the centre, and Baillon further improved with a couple of well-judged kicks.

Then, for offside, Gloucester were penalised and from the easy position BAILLON landed a goal.

Gloucester, after this reverse, put in some grand work, and a strong run by Harris was well supported by A'Bear. The ball was taken over the home line, but the touch was gained by a Northampton player – a narrow escape.

The game continued to be fiercely contested, first one side and then the other gaining advantage, but Northampton were more aggressive in the back division.

Another penalty against Gloucester gave Baillon the opportunity to add to his fine lead, but he missed this time. Boughton punted out, but failed to find touch, and King dashed for the corner. He was held up and an exciting couple of minutes followed on the Gloucester line.

The City, however, defended magnificently and eventually pressure was relieved by Meadows.

The East Midlanders returned to the attack, but openings were lost through fumbling behind the scrum.

### GLOUCESTER RALLY

Gloucester came again in the last few minutes, Brooks leading his men in a fine rally, and there was a brilliant movement on the left, where James just failed to beat the defence.

Haines had a dash for the corner, but was well tackled. Gloucester put forward tremendous efforts to get on terms, but the home defence was equal to the occasion, and Northampton had the better of the concluding stages.

There was no more scoring.

### RESULT :

NORTHAMPTON .... 1 goal (p.) (3 pts.)  
GLOUCESTER ..... Nil

### REMARKS

Gloucester, although defeated, share the honours in a terrific contest. The City's great rally in the last 10 minutes deserved reward and it was a bit of bad luck when they failed to equalise.

The contest forward was waged with the greatest determination, and that Gloucester held their own against such formidable opponents was highly meritorious.

The whole pack worked grandly, with Horder, Welshman, Morris and Harris perhaps the pick.

Outside, Northants held a big advantage as to combination, but the passing often lacked judgment.

Fifield and Meadows did excellent work for the City, and behind them John Brooks and James were invaluable. There was a weakness on the wings where Haines and Morris were beaten by Chorlton and King.

Boughton saved well at times, but he had no superiority over Baillon.

JC