

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1935

NEWPORT 9 PTS., GLOUCESTER NIL

GAME SPOILT BY HEAVY WEATHER

CITY OUT OF LUCK IN GALLANT STRUGGLE

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester suffered their third defeat of the season to-day, when they lost to Newport on the latter's ground.

In the corresponding match last year the City were successful by 8 points to 3, but were defeated in the return game at Kingsholm by 11 points to 8.

Of the last seven matches between the teams, Gloucester have won four to Newport's three.

Edwards reappeared at centre for Gloucester after an absence of four weeks, and Pugsley reverted to the wing position.

Newport had victories over Blackheath and Leicester to their credit and on Thursday they put up a wonderful game against the New Zealanders, although beaten by 17 pts. to 5.

Owing to the Welsh trial and players on the injured list, the Newport team underwent numerous changes, the absentees including Legge, Hopkins, Gear, Hawkins, Dunn, Evans, and E. Wright.

Ivor Williams being available, Powell, the United player, offered to stand down, and the County forward took his place.

## GLOUCESTER

FULL-BACK: H. Boughton.

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

HALF-BACKS: C. Fifield and Don Meadows.

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

## NEWPORT

FULL-BACK: K. Squires.

THREE-QUARTERS: J. T. Knowles, B. H. Groves, A. R. Allen, and D. H. Alexander.

HALF-BACKS: L. Pritchard and R. Tovey.

FORWARDS: V. J. Law, W. Turner, R. H. Williams, J. C. Jarman, J. C. Wright, E. J. Shiner, T. J. Davies, and M. Chadwin.

REFEREE: Mr. T. Phillips (Pontypridd).

After a bright morning the weather took an unfavourable turn, and heavy rain fell prior to the start. The ground, already cut up after Thursday's match, was in consequence in a very bad condition. The attendance, too, suffered, less than 3,000 being present.

## THE GAME

Gloucester kicked off in pouring rain, and early on Newport were awarded a penalty, Allen finding touch with a good kick on the Gloucester 25. The City backs opened out, but gained little by passing, Edwards sending forward to Hook. Boughton placed Gloucester well down with a long touch-finder, and the visiting team made further headway with a loose dribble. Williams being prominent, Pritchard relieved with a short run down, and the exchanges were fought out at midfield.

It was evident at this early stage of the game that handling would be extremely difficult, and Gloucester failed again when they attempted passing.

## CITY HARD PRESSED

Newport found loose rushing more profitable, and from one burst Wright sent over the line, Boughton conceding a minor. From the drop-out Hook charged down Knowles' return, but Allen got back and saved.

Mistakes were frequent on the treacherous pitch, and play was mostly confined to the forwards. Boughton cleared nicely from a Newport attack, but the home forwards were dangerous again with loose footwork.

Kick and rush was the order of play on both sides, with each side gaining the ascendancy in turn.

## NEWPORT OPEN SCORING

Newport worked down to the Gloucester 25. Williams attempted to pass to Brooks, but ALLEN dashed in and intercepted. He beat Boughton, and scored in a favourable position, but the goal was disallowed.

Playing well together Newport had the better of the play on the resumption, the forwards appearing to adapt themselves to the conditions more effectively.

Gloucester were severely pressed on one occasion under the goal, but Newport infringed. Boughton relieved nicely with the resultant penalty.

The ground was in a hopeless state, and the players were sliding and slipping all over the place in the mud.

Edwards kicked dead following a combined rush by the home front, and on the drop out the City broke away to the other end, a long kick by Boughton assisting.

## HARD AND KEEN PLAY

An attempt to open out, however, broke down, and a 50 yards dribble by the Newport forwards completely changed the position.

The football was keen and hard, but skilful back play was nullified by the conditions.

Inside the Gloucester 25, TOVEY snapped up a pass from Fifield to Meadows, and racing hard for the corner scored wide out. Allen failed with the goal kick.

Newport were now 6 points up, and though both the tries were lucky they had so far proved the more adaptable side.

On the restart Gloucester showed up strongly, and from one passing bout Edwards burst through, but his pass to Hook was spoiled. Both sides attacked before the interval, but there was no further scoring.

Half-time :

Newport ..... 2 tries

Gloucester ..... Nil

Newport with their weak representatives had surprised their followers by their first half performance, but on the play they deserved their lead.

The rain stopped, and the sun came out when the game was restarted. Gloucester opened promisingly with a strong run by Brooks, but he was finally checked by Squires, who gave Newport a good position with a splendid touch-finder.

Edwards and Pugsley relieve with useful punts, and fast following up by Williams saw Squires tackled in possession 10 yards from the line. With a determined burst the home front carried play half the length of the field – a splendid clearance.

Gloucester retaliated, Meadows displaying clever footwork, but the ball went to touch. The contest continued mainly with the forwards, where Newport were showing more dash and were better together.

#### BOUGHTON'S FINE CLEARANCE

Gloucester made headway through Brooks, but ground was quickly recaptured by Newport, Knowles succeeding with a clever dribble down the touch-line. Newport continued to have the better in the loose, where they were effective.

Misfielding by Brooks allowed the home team to go right through, but Boughton brought off a good clearance.

In more loose play, Meadows, Edwards and Williams took the ball to Squires, who was in trouble, but the situation was saved at the critical moment.

#### NEWPORT PRESSED

A penalty gave Newport relief, but the City rushed back again only to be foiled on the line, and again Newport secured relief by the aid of a penalty.

Gloucester were having most of the play just now, and there was a promise of scoring when Brooks broke away and passed to Pugsley. The latter, however, was tackled by Alexander and his re-pass went astray.

Newport paid a brief visit to the City half but were beaten back, and Meadows, with a dodgy run, beat the defence and reached Squire. He short-punted, but near the mark a home player saved.

Gloucester maintained the pressure, and Williams headed a dribble to the line where he nearly scored. Working desperately, Gloucester kept Newport strictly on the defensive, the forwards doing great work. Allen broke away with a strong run and punted over Boughton's head.

He was obstructed in following up, and the referee awarded a penalty kick in front of the posts. ALLEN took the kick, and landed a neat goal.

Nine points ahead Newport were in a winning position. Gloucester fought gallantly, but had no luck.

#### RESULT :

NEWPORT .... 1 goal (p.), 2 tries (9 points)  
GLOUCESTER ..... Nil

#### REMARKS

The game as a spectacle was completely spoiled by the conditions, but it was fiercely contested between the forwards.

Not until the second half did the Gloucester men realise the best tactics to adopt and during this period they were certainly virile. Newport all round received better advantage and on the day, they deserved their win.

There was little outstanding back play, and few movements travelled far. Allen was the best of the Newport backs and Meadows and Edwards for Gloucester both made mistakes, which were excusable on such a day, in handling and fielding the ball.

Of the Gloucester forwards Williams, Welshman, A'Bear, and Price were distinguished, but all did well in a gruelling game.