

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1936

LEICESTER 6 Pts.; GLOUCESTER 16

CONVINCING VICTORY A SURPRISE FOR CITY SUPPORTERS

HOOK'S WONDERFUL TRY A FEATURE OF THE MATCH

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester made an auspicious start in their first engagement of the New Year, when they gained a notable triumph over a strong Leicester team, which included four Internationals. In the corresponding match at Leicester last season the City were defeated by 27 points to nil, but won the return game at Kingsholm by 32 points to nil.

Nicholson, the English hooker, was included in the Leicester side, but Obolensky, Kendrew and Gadney, who also played against the All Blacks, were absent. Kendrew was appearing for the Army against Bristol, and Gadney for the East Midlands.

In Gadney's place, however, the club were fortunate in securing the services of J. L. Giles, the Coventry scrum-half, who played for England against Wales and Ireland last season. Obolensky had promised to turn out, but was unable to do so.

Gloucester also fielded a strong Fifteen, although Boughton, still unfit, was a prominent absentee at full-back. He was deputised on this occasion by T. Stephens, of the United team. A newcomer in the ranks of the City was A. L. Warr, the Oxford Blue and International wing, who offered his services to the club.

Hordern and Williams returned to the back row of the Gloucester pack, and despite the array of talent against them there was confidence in the ability of the visitors putting up a good contest.

GLOUCESTER

FULL-BACK: T. Stephens.

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

HALF-BACKS: E. Day and D. Meadows.

FORWARDS: A. Carpenter, C. Harris, T. Price, J. G. A'Bear, R. Morris, A. Welshman, P. Hordern, and Ivor Williams.

LEICESTER

FULL-BACK: R. J. Barr.

THREE-QUARTERS: W. V. Sheppard, S. C. Harrison, L. A. Rogers, and G. A. Harris.

HALF-BACKS: J. L. Giles and T. Arundel.

FORWARDS: J. Hopkins, E. S. Nicholson, J. Wormleighton, C. St. J. Beamish, P. C. Vallance, N. Adams, J. T. W. Berry, and J. McD. Hodgson.

REFEREE: Mr. W. F. Sanderson (London).

The Leicester team underwent several changes and great disappointment was expressed that Obolensky was unable to turn out, in addition to Kendrew.

The weather was cold but dry, and the ground was in a fair condition, although likely to cut up. The English cup-tie on the Leicester City ground proved a strong counter-attraction, and the attendance at the Rugby game was about 2,000.

THE GAME

Gloucester kicked off, and from the first scrum Day opened out beautifully. The ball went along the three-quarter line nicely to Hook, but the latter missed the pass. Leicester gained 30 yards with a touch finder, but the City's forwards with a fine dribble rushed back beyond the centre.

Here the visiting forwards heeled, and Edwards receiving from Meadows, broke through to Barr, and handed to BROOKS, the captain going over with a try five minutes from the kick-off. Hook failed at goal.

Fast play followed on the resumption, Gloucester doing splendid work.

Leicester worked down with loose rushes, but they were beaten back with useful kicks. Gloucester again got the ball away, and Warr ran strongly, but was finally brought down.

STEPHENS' SMART CLEARANCE

Leicester with a strong forward burst secured a footing in the visitors half, and Sheppard made a determined dash, but fell to numbers. Beamish followed with another strong dash, but Stephens intercepting a pass almost on the line effected a remarkable clearance.

Day was instrumental in setting his backs going again, and Edwards shone with a fine run. Hook, however, was too near touch to do anything.

LEICESTER EQUALISE

A penalty enabled Leicester to change the position, and two minutes later Gloucester were penalised again. McD. HODGSON took a place for goal 40 yards out, and with a magnificent kick equalised the scores.

Gloucester had the better of the exchanges on the restart, but sound tackling prevented an opening being secured.

Leicester, with dashing loose footwork, set up strong attacks, but the Gloucester defence proved very sound. McD. Hodgson had another shot from a penalty, but this time he was wide, and Hook touched down.

Subsequent play was fast and desperately keen among the forwards, Gloucester eventually gaining the upper hand. The ball was kicked past Barr, but the home player got back and effected a smart save.

Play was in favour of Leicester again, but they were never allowed to get dangerous, and Stephens was several times tested with high punts, but he fielded accurately, and always found touch with his kicks.

DAY'S TUSSLE AT HALF-BACK

The ground was cutting up badly in places, and the condition slowed down the speed of the backs.

Leicester, however, showed great dash forward, and Day was very resourceful at half, beating Giles frequently.

From a scrum there was a lovely round of passing ending in Edwards cross-punting in front of goal.

Hordern gathered and made a bold dive for the line, but was held up.

The ball, however, got loose, and Day receiving, threw out a wide pass to EDWARDS, who dashed over with a fine try.

Hook converted and Gloucester led by 8–3.

Some spirited play followed to the interval, but there was no further scoring.

Half-time :

Gloucester 1 goal 1 try

Leicester 1 goal (p.)

Gloucester were worthy leaders on the play, the two tries being the result of fine combined efforts. Edwards was greatly distinguished.

There was an early sensation in the second half. Leicester secured a lucky position with a flying kick and started an attack on the right.

Harrison, however, fumbled, and HOOK, picking up the ball, raced three-parts the length of the field to score a wonderful try. He failed with the goal kick.

Loud shouts of 'Obolensky' greeted Hook's effort.

Encouraged by this further success, Gloucester played brilliant football, the pack combining cleverly. Leicester replied with loose rushes, and once looked dangerous, but were beaten off.

Gloucester assumed the aggressive again, but there was a wild pass on the left, and Sheppard took advantage.

CLEVER COMBINATION

Gloucester, however, quickly retrieved, and the home team were placed on the defensive.

The combination of the City backs was a feature of the play, and twice the visitors only just failed to break through.

Keeping up the pressure, the City went hard to increase their lead. More clever passing saw Edwards slip through and punt over the line.

He beat Barr and Harris in the race for the ball, and dived for the touch, but the referee ruled for a minor only – a big surprise, for it appeared a perfect try.

DAY'S SPLENDID SERVICE

Leicester were playing a vigorous game forward, but the backs were frequently at fault with handling. Day continued to show up well against Giles, serving Meadows with splendid passes. The City, however, could not find a gap in the defence.

Leicester then combined in a clever movement, but a smothering tackle at the finish saved the Gloucester line. For a few minutes Leicester set up several strong attacks, but they were met with a superb defence.

The City got going again and after passing, Warr cross-kicked. Brooks and Edwards tackled Barr, and the ball was rushed to the line, where the home backs saved just in time.

CITY FURTHER AHEAD

Leicester eased the pressure for a brief period, but Gloucester were playing grand football, and from another fine passing bout all along the line Hook cross-punted with splendid judgment. HORDERN was in position, and scored near the posts, Hook converting.

Gloucester nearly scored again after the drop out, after a break through by Brooks, but following this Leicester went to the other end. Sheppard tried hard for the corner, but was pushed into touch.

Leicester tried desperately to add to their score in the final minutes, and from a scrum close in HOPKINS scored, but McD. Hodgson missed the goal points.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 2 goals 2 tries (16 points)

LEICESTER 1 goal (p,) 1 try (6 points)

REMARKS

Gloucester were worthy winners of a game which produced a lot of interesting football. Leicester fought hard forward and were a dangerous side in the loose, but behind the scrums the City were superior in all departments.

The combination at half-back provided the visiting three-quarters with numerous opportunities and both Day and Meadows played fine games. It was Day's most successful match, and in all phases he more than held his own against the International Giles. Meadows opened out skilfully, and was a splendid pivot.

Brooks and Edwards, at centre, were thrustful, the latter being very dangerous in attack.

Hook scored the finest try of the match with a solo effort, and both he and Warr did splendid work.

Stephens gave a capital all-round display at full-back, and of the forwards, all of whom accomplished some magnificent work against a strong eight, Hordern, Williams, A'Bear, and A. Welshman were perhaps the pick.

Leicester were let down by the backs, where the players handled poorly and displayed a lack of experience.

JC