

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1936

DEVON[PORT] SERVICES 11 PTS.; GLOUCESTER 8 PTS.

GLOUCESTER UNLUCKY TO BE DEFEATED

KNAPMAN SCORES WINNING POINTS FOR SERVICES

DROPPED GOAL NEAR THE END

Gloucester's brilliant run of successes was checked to-day, when they suffered defeat from Devonport Services in the opening match of the Devon tour. Gloucester won the first match between the teams at Kingsholm by three tries to a penalty goal.

The City had hoped to field full strength, but Phillips and Ivor Williams were unable to make the trip, the latter suffering with a septic gland in the neck. The vacancies were filled from the reserves taken on tour, these including T. Stephens, N. Powell, and E. Bayliss. It is expected Roy James and R. E. Early will be available for the match against Torquay on Monday, if required.

GLOUCESTER

BACK: H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS: R. E. Hook, T. Stephens, J. C. Brooks, and F. G. Edwards.

HALF-BACKS: E. Day and Don Meadows.

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

DEVONPORT SERVICES

BACK: Knapman.

THREE-QUARTERS: Hurden, Welch, Criddle, and Smith.

HALF-BACKS: Parry and Bailey.

FORWARDS: Johnson, Paddon, Evans, Forest, Webb, Doggett, Callaghan, and Pryor.

Referee: Mr. Newcomb (Devon).

THE GAME

Conditions were ideal when the game started, but there was a soft patch in front of the grandstand. Gloucester opened out and at once took play into the Services territory, but the home team relieved and Bailey, who got possession, endeavoured to open out. Keen tackling by the visitors broke up the movement.

SERVICES EARLY LEAD

The Services continued to press, and when the ball became loose HURDEN chased over the line to give the home team a try after five minutes. Knapman failed with the kick. Within two minutes the Services had gone further ahead when CRIDDLE dropped a goal for them.

Gloucester, on the restart, carried play into the Services territory, but were unable to make much headway against a steady defence.

The Services continued to press, but an interchange of passing broke down at Evans. Gloucester, with their forwards, carried play to the Services end and a duel of kicking between Knapman and Boughton resulted in an advantage to Gloucester.

GLO'STER MISS GOOD CHANCE

The Services were penalised for a scrum infringement soon afterwards, but Boughton sent wide. Gloucester then took up the offensive strongly, and a nice threequarter movement, in which Edwards, Brooks and Stephens participated, ended when Hook knocked on the last pass.

Play hovered for some time at the Services end where the Gloucester forwards became dangerous, and there Day and Meadows compelled the home team to save. Meadows was particularly unfortunate in not scoring. Both teams were handling the ball with great freedom, but the Services were getting the advantage in the scrums.

PENALTY GOAL FOR CITY

Devonport continued to hold the advantage and Knapman, who received the ball in the loose, endeavoured to cut through on his own. He was tackled, however, when he reached the Gloucester 25. The visitors returned and Hook was making a great burst on the left after a good forward movement when he was bundled into touch by the ever watchful Knapman.

Gloucester could not press home their advantage. Their backs were prominent with really good touch kicking, and generally speaking the Services were lucky to have had such a commanding lead, for although they initiated many good movements, Gloucester had certainly been seen to better advantage in many respect and had given a crisper display.

Right on the interval Gloucester managed to reduce their arrears. The Services were penalised, and STEPHENS, who took the kick, landed a goal.

Half-time :

Gloucester 1 goal (p.)

Devonport Services ... 1 goal (d.) 1 try

The visitors broke away smartly on the resumption and Hook was going all out for the line when he was tackled by Knapman, who then relieved tremendous pressure with a fine kick.

HOOK'S DELIGHTFUL TRY

Gloucester were not to be denied, however. They attacked with vigour and within five minutes got their reward.

The Services threequarters had initiated a movement when Edwards intercepted. He got through cleverly, and when challenged by Knapman passed out to HOOK who outstripped the speedy Hurden to beat all the defence and score a delightful try, which Stephens converted.

Gloucester had now obtained a one-point lead.

This reverse stimulated the Services, who tried all they knew to regain the lead. They came very near doing so when Knapman threw out a long pass to Parry. The Services' scrum half transferred to Smith, but he was bundled into touch near the line.

SERVICES' SEVERE PRESSURE

Play continued to hover in the Gloucester territory, and Parry made another great endeavour to get over, but he was frustrated by a stubborn defence.

In subsequent pressure Knapman raced up and endeavoured to cut through the centre, but finding himself hemmed in, he sent out a pass to Webb. The forward was almost over when he was tackled and pushed into touch in the nick of time.

It was just at this stage that Welshman was injured and he had to retire.

The Services continued to hammer away, and Parry returned play to the Gloucester end with a good movement. Knapman came into the three-quarter line, and seized an opportunity to kick hard ahead, a score nearly resulting.

In the closing stages Devonport asserted enormous pressure, but it was not until three minutes before the end that they pushed their advantage home, when KNAPMAN, who was well positioned, dropped a delightful goal from the 25 yards line.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 2 goals (1 p.) (8 pts.)
DEVONPORT SERVICES ... 2 goals (d.) 1 try (11 pts.)

REMARKS

By Our Devonport Correspondent.

Gloucester may well count themselves an unlucky team. On the run of the play they did not deserve to lose, for in most respects they were superior to the Services. It was mainly due to the Devonport half-backs, who were outstanding, that the home team owed their success. Good work by Parry and Bailey undoubtedly prevented the visitors from getting the verdict.

Day and Meadows were two of the best players in the Gloucester team, while Hordern was the pick of the forwards. Boughton did not attain his usual form in the match. After missing two penalties the goal kicking was entrusted to Stephens. He did not [miss] and it was due to his efforts that Gloucester were able to obtain five of their points.

JC