

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1936

GLOUCESTER RECORD THEIR 21ST VICTORY

BRILLIANT RUGBY AGAINST LONDON WELSH

Gloucester opened their holiday programme with a brilliant victory over London Welsh, in a game which furnished one of the most attractive displays of the season, but the form was not maintained, and a narrow win over Headingley on Easter Monday was followed with a drawn game against Lydney.

GLOUCESTER'S BIGGEST SCORE.

Gloucester recorded their heaviest score of the season when they defeated London Welsh by 32 pts. to 13. This was a delightful open game, and furnished one of the most spectacular displays this term. The Welsh were deprived of the assistance of Vivian Jenkins and Wooller (who, with Hordern, was on tour with the Barbarians), and the brothers Bowcott, but turned out a serviceable fifteen, who vied with the City players in making play as attractive as possible. At the onset the "Exiles" surprised the home team by their smartness, and two good tries were obtained from intercepted passes. At one period the Welshmen led by 10 points to 3, but Gloucester gained a point lead before the interval, and the form shown suggested the City had the game in hand.

But no-one expected the play would take such a decided turn in Gloucester's favour on the change over. Holding a commanding advantage in the scrums, the home three-quarters were continually in possession, thanks to the fine work of Day and Meadows, who were both seen at their best. Day's service was well nigh perfect, and Meadows, who captained the side in the absence of Brooks, on the injured list, delighted the crowd with his brilliant all-round work.

MEADOWS' BRILLIANCE

Occasionally a pass went wrong, but for the most part Meadows was the ideal pivot. He beat the defence in amazing fashion at times, and cleared the way for several of the tries. It was all done with such comparative ease as to emphasise its effectiveness. And in general play the acting captain's work was equally meritorious, and his individual performance stood out as one of the best.

With Brooks away, Stephens, who did so well against Devonport Services, again officiated at centre, and he fitted in splendidly with Edwards, Phillips and Hook. Stephens made some nice openings, showing distinct ability in beating his man, and with a few more yards in speed would have been a greater success.

This was evidenced when Gloucester obtained their last try on the call of time. Stephens, from the centre line, cut through, eluding the opposition, including the full-back, very cleverly. But he had not the pace to finish off the effort. A'Bear, however, had backed up promptly, and was in position to take Stephens' pass and score between the posts.

CONSTRUCTIVE FOOTBALL

This was only one of many fine combined movements witnessed during the game and London Welsh contributed their share, to the enjoyment of the crowd. The visitors, although well down in points, played constructive football all through, and they had their reward late in the match with a typical try by McCarthy. Perfect handling left the ball with the right wing, and with a strong burst and a swerve, which easily beat Boughton, the Gloucester defence was pierced.

Edwards, troubled with an injured ankle, played on the wing in the second half for Gloucester, but the handicap did not appear to check his pace or determination when scoring opportunities came along. Edwards was credited with three of the tries, and he had a very successful match all round.

Phillips and Hook shared in the general success, and both were distinguished for excellent work. It was an exhilarating display by the back division, and achieved against an opposition of no mean performers.

MORE GOALS FOR BOUGHTON

Gwyn Bayliss, the former Welsh International and Pontypool full-back, deputised Jenkins for the visitors, but he was not up to Boughton's standard. The latter's goal-kicking was again a feature – four converted tries and a penalty goal, and another shot – one of the best – only failed owing to the wind blowing the ball back as it was going straight between the posts.

Ray Thomas, the London Welsh captain, who figured at centre, was the outstanding player for the visitors. He was a rare opportunist, and difficult to stop when on the move. Duggan got through a lot of defensive work, and the two wings made the best use of the few opportunities in attack which came their way. The half-backs were overshadowed by the Gloucester pair, but they were up against a difficult problem on the day's play.

CITY FORWARDS IN FORM

The Gloucester forwards, under the leadership of Welshman, established a clear-cut superiority in all phases. They were exceptionally good in the second half, the heeling being well done, while their combined loose rushes overwhelmed their opponents at times.

Carpenter was among the liveliest of the players, and Price and Harris, who have gained so much distinction this season, were greatly in evidence. A'Bear, who also had ankle trouble, was pressed into service owing to Morris dropping out, maintained his consistent form, and Ricketts (on leave for the holidays), Welshman, Smith and Bayliss (from the United) all shone at intervals.

The Welshmen were fast and energetic, and dangerous at times when handling in the open. They were best in this phase of play, H. M. Hughes, the Oxford Blue, and Wilcox, being particularly noticeable. But in the scrums they were well beaten for possession, and the Gloucester players also held the advantage in the lines out.

All round the display of the two teams was in keeping with the holiday spirit, and afforded a splendid send-off for the Easter matches.

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