

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1936

NARROW VICTORY

Headingley, Monday's visitors, had a strong side out, including Auty and Booth, the English Internationals, McGrath (Ireland), and several Yorkshire county players. Gloucester had to play Cyril Harris at wing three-quarter in place of Edwards, who decided to stand down owing to his injured ankle.

The City just managed to win by the goal-kick (5 pts. to 3), after a very keen struggle. Gloucester had the better of the play territorially, but the backs did not combine with the success which characterised their efforts on Saturday.

The Headingley triangle – Auty, Booth and Kingswell – were exceptionally close markers, and up to every move on the board to thwart attacks. Meadows tried his hardest to make openings, but when a score appeared likely something would go wrong with the handling.

BRAINY TRY

The acting captain, however, had the distinction of scoring the City's try – a brainy effort. A well-judged pass from a scrum on the Headingley 25 was collected by Meadows, who gave his opponents the impression an orthodox movement to the wing was intended. The visiting backs opened out accordingly – a fatal mistake as events turned out. Meadows retained possession of the ball, went clean through the gap, and crossed the line near the posts. There was no charge, and Boughton added the goal points – a vital shot, for it gave Gloucester the victory.

Stephens, at centre, did not reproduce the form he showed against London Welsh, and the other regular three-quarters were rather below par.

A word of commendation, however, is due to Harris for his work at right wing. He was placed in the position at the last moment, but performed with great credit, and gave nothing away. By this experiment the City found the right player to put out at three-quarter in an emergency.

The forward battle in this match was a very strenuous one, and Headingley gave the City one of their hardest games. Carpenter had the better of the hooking, but in other respects there was little to choose between the rival packs.

At times the exchanges were over-vigorous, and in the concluding minutes, with Gloucester on their opponents' line, there was a good deal of the old-fashioned rough and tumble. But both sets of players appeared to enjoy it, although it did not appear to those spectators who enjoy open rugby.

AUTY STANDS OUT

Headingley had in Auty an outside-half of distinction, and his solo runs were always a menace to the home defence. He had capable colleagues in the back division, and Gloucester had to pull out a bit extra at times to check these aggressive Yorkshiremen.

The visiting wing forwards were penalised frequently for off-side, but they took care not to infringe in their own quarter, with Boughton ready to take advantage. The latter had two or three shots, but they were too far out, although one kick only just failed.

The tactics referred to had the effect of spoiling the game as a spectacle, and there were long periods of scrambling play. On the whole it was a disappointing exhibition, although the closeness of the struggle kept excitement going. The gate receipts on Monday amounted to £118, a return which was regarded as very satisfactory.