

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1937

GLOUCESTER LOSE THEIR GROUND RECORD

NEWPORT AVENGE 1921 DEFEAT

STIRRING CONTEST BETWEEN TWO WELL MATCHED TEAMS

WINNING POINTS OBTAINED NEAR FINISH

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester suffered their first reverse of the season at Kingsholm to-day to Newport, who thus avenged the loss of their great record on the same ground in 1921, when they were beaten by 12 points to 9. Previous to this afternoon the City had won nine successive games at home, the defeated sides including Bristol, Richmond, Leicester and Oxford University.

Last night's exceptionally severe frost caught the unprotected parts of the playing pitch, and there was considerable doubt as to the match being played.

On arrival at Kingsholm the Newport officials and players inspected the ground with the Gloucester captain and there was a diversity of opinion as to its fitness. The visiting officials were against playing and the Gloucester captain informed me the fixture was "off."

A few minutes later it was announced, as the result of a sporting gesture by the Newport players, that the game would be played.

The gates had not been opened to the paying public, but the big crowd outside were quickly admitted, the attendance, however, was naturally affected by the uncertainty which existed . . .

[c. 20 column lines missing; removed from original; including the whole of the Gloucester, and part of the Newport teams.]

FORWARDS: V. J. Law, W. Travers, J. G. Jerman, A. Bale, W. G. Jones, L. Evans, J. C. Wright, T. Foster.

REFEREE : Mr. T. N. Pearce (London).

THE GAME

The kick-off was delayed until nearly 3 o'clock and Newport started the game, Meadows replying to touch at the centre. Play was contested in the visitors half, and Dibden, with a long raking kick sent to the Newport line. The ball just went dead in the corner.

Newport [were] penalised ten yards inside their half. Boughton had a long shot at goal, a glorious kick striking the upright and rebounding into play – very hard lines. Immediately after, following some loose play, Hook picked up and dropped a fine goal, but the whistle had gone for a previous infringement – more hard luck for the City. Ensuing play favoured Gloucester, but Tanner and Houghton colliding, the latter had to rest for a brief period.

Resuming, Newport with a sharp dash and long kick gained a position in the home 25. The visitors attempted passing, but Dibden intercepted and ran and fed Hook. The wing man progressed some distance, but was eventually forced to kick and the ball rolled to touch.

Newport changed the position with a fast forward rush, and then Dibden was unlucky in slightly knocking on just as he was clearing.

KEEN FORWARD PLAY

Play was keen with the forwards, the visitors using their feet well, but Boughton checked. Gloucester tried to work out, but were unable to make much headway.

Legge failed with a good attempt for goal from a penalty, Boughton fielding and putting in a fine clearance kick. Bown and Tanner combined in a smart bit of work on the right, the former knocking on in trying to collect the ball from the wing man's cross-punt.

Meadows, with well judged kicking, confined play to the Newport half, but Gloucester were unable to reach the danger zone. Loose rushes by the Newport front took play to mid-field, where Day broke away cleverly, and gave a neat pass to Tanner.

The International dashed past Houghton and looked certain for a try, but the Newport linesman ruled he had crossed the touch line and he was called back.

GLOUCESTER WELL TOGETHER

Gloucester, playing well together, had the better of the exchanges, Day doing good work. Newport twice opened out, but Hook and Tanner in turn gave the opposing wings no chance to get away. A breakaway by the visiting forwards appeared dangerous, but Dibden gathered the ball and slipped several opponents neatly. In trying to work his way for an opening for Hook, however, he was collared.

Subsequent play was exceptionally fast and interesting. The Newport forwards made headway with loose rushes, and Hawkins served Wade whenever possible. The latter tried the punt ahead, but Boughton was in position and replied with interest.

NEWPORT OPEN THE SCORING

Heeling by the Welsh forwards saw the backs handle perfectly, but Houghton found Tanner impassable. Newport, however, maintained their position, and for feet up in the scrum Gloucester suffered a penalty inside their 25. It was a fairly easy position, but Legge failed to land a goal.

A minute later Boughton lost the ball after being partly tackled and Houghton gathering was nearly over. To the interval Newport pressed, and Day being penalised for off-side in front of the posts, LEGGE kicked an easy goal to give Newport the lead.

Half-time :

Newport 1 goal (p)
Gloucester Nil

Only 30 minutes each way were played, and with mist gathering there was little delay before the resumption.

Play opened at the Newport end, but Legge, with a penalty, put the game well inside the home half.

GLOUCESTER'S FINE TRY AND LEAD

From a line out the Gloucester forwards, with Price to the fore, started a glorious rush which travelled three parts the length of the field. Newport tried in vain to check, and the movement continuing the ball was taken over the line, and DICK (so it appeared) touched down for a try.

The charge was disallowed and Boughton taking careful aim, landed a goal, to give Gloucester two points lead – well deserved, for the try was an excellent one and the result of splendid dash and backing up.

On the restart, Gloucester were quickly on the attack with a sweeping forward rush which Legge just stopped in time. The City, playing with splendid dash, went close just afterwards, and Boughton had a drop for goal but sent wide.

Having successfully defended their line against those shock tactics, Newport took on the running and splendid touch-finding placed Gloucester on the defence. The visitors' attack, however, was closely watched, and Boughton, with a splendid left-foot screw shot found touch at the centre line.

Exchanges were fast and vigorous with the forwards, but there was little in it. Day opening out, Gloucester forged ahead, Meadows cutting out a nice opening, but there was a whistle back for an infringement.

CLEVER WORK

The Gloucester backs displayed some clever work just now, Bown shining particularly, but the Newport marking was close and sure.

Meadows, with his punts to touch, frequently gained ground for his side, and Boughton was very safe.

The game had taken a turn in favour of Gloucester again and Harris, with a splendid run, gained 30 yards before passing to Dick. The latter tried hard to burst clear, but was held, and the ball rolling loose, Newport scored.

With only two points dividing the sides, play was exceptionally keen, but Gloucester were holding their own splendidly.

Newport eventually worked down, and were awarded a penalty 35 yards out. Legge had a place for goal, but was unsuccessful.

Newport maintained the pressure, and Hawkins, opening out, Edwards received, and with a strong burst beat the defence and scored a capital try. Legge converted, and Newport took the lead again.

Gloucester made strenuous efforts in the closing minutes to save the record, but were unsuccessful.

RESULT :

NEWPORT 2 goals (1p.) (8 points)

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS

Gloucester put up a splendid fight to save their ground record, but Newport pulled out a bit extra in the last few minutes, and Edwards' try settled the issue.

The rival forwards were well matched, the Gloucester pack doing magnificently in the second half. But as a combination the Welshmen had a bit the best of matters outside the scrum. Boughton and Legge served their respective sides admirably at full back.