

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1925

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER'S NARROW VICTORY

CITY'S WEAKNESS AT THREE-QUARTER AGAIN IN EVIDENCE

MOSELEY'S CLEVER ALL-ROUND DISPLAY

LOVERIDGE SUSTAINS BROKEN COLLAR BONE

Moseley, who were in the City Club's list for a mid-week fixture at Kingsholm last year, showed such bright and attractive football that home and away Saturday matches were arranged this season. The Midlanders opened last week at Bradford, and though beaten by 18 points to 14, gave a good account of themselves.

The visitors lacked the services of Wiles (half-back), injured in practice, and Wylie (late of London Scottish), but E. Parry, the Birmingham University and North Midlands three-quarter, came into the side, as well as R. S. Symons, who is in England for a few weeks from South Africa.

Gloucester fielded short of Dr. Taylor, still on the injured list, and Ford, who has joined Coventry. There was a re-arrangement behind, Hughes going outside half and Saxby coming in at centre.

A. Hall re-appeared at forward, and was accorded a good reception on entering the field.

The weather was fine after a shower, and there were 4,000 present when the teams entered the enclosure.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : T. Millington.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. N. Loveridge, E. L. Saxby, E. D. Pope, and S. A. Brown.

HALF-BACKS : E. H. Hughes and R. Milliner.

FORWARDS : T. Voyce (capt.), F. Ayliffe, S. Duberley, J. Reed, H. Roberts, J. Hemmings, M. Short, and A. Hall.

MOSELEY

BACK : J. A. Pritchard.

THREE-QUARTERS : E. Parry, N. C. Lancaster, S. J. Huins, R. Orcutt.

HALF-BACKS : W. H. Hill and E. T. W. Starkie.

FORWARDS : P. S. Jenkins, H. E. Marwick, J. Barker, C. Gummer, C. J. Byrne, J. R. MacDowell, B. A. Batchelor, R. N. D. Walker.

Referee : Mr. R. W. Barry (Cardiff).

THE GAME

Moseley started the game, and the home forwards started passing, Voyce punting well down the field, to which there was only a poor return. A passing bout by the visitors was well carried on until Parry misfielded, but he recovered and kicked to Millington, who got in a nice touchfinder. A clever screw punt by Loveridge put Gloucester on the attack, and later Saxby made a strong dash for the line, but he was well tackled.

The City kept up the attack, but they were beaten off, and centre play followed. Here Moseley opened up nicely, and some beautiful passing ensued. More than half a dozen players handled in turn, and in the end BATCHELOR dashed over with one of the finest tries imaginable. The place kick failed.

Gloucester resumed, and the City showed up strongly with good play. Hughes started Saxby on the move, and the latter fed Loveridge, who when tackled let the ball go. SAXBY was well up, and Pritchard fumbling slightly, the ex-Hereford centre picked up and scored wide out. Millington missed the goal-kick, and the sides were level. So far the play had been very open, and greatly pleased the crowd.

Play on the resumption favoured Gloucester, but Moseley were very smart behind, and the backs handled well. Pope and Saxby, with good kicks, gave Gloucester an advantage, but the defence was good. Near midfield Hughes, receiving a pass from Milliner, transferred inside to Voyce, who broke clean away in a great run. The International dodged past Pritchard, but when looking all over a scorer he was pounced upon from behind ten yards from the line. Gloucester tried to rush the ball over, but failed. A penalty against the city for off-side lost some 30 yards, but clever back play recovered. Something, however, went wrong at the critical moment.

The home forwards, with fine, dashing work, tested the opposition severely, but Moseley, who were finding the sun and wind a handicap, put up a splendid fight. Play was confined to the visitors' half, but Pope was twice at fault in handling, and promising movements broke down. Saxby was an [word, words unreadable] a little later after a clever opening by Hughes, and his mistake allowed the Midlanders to break away. Good tackling, however, prevented an opening.

For not putting the ball in straight, Moseley were penalised, and Voyce, taking the kick, just tipped the ball, caught it, and started his forwards going. Reed dashed away, and passed to Hemmings, who, however, threw straight into the arms of an opponent, who staved off a threatened danger.

When in possession the Moseley backs were more convincing than the home set and this fact was emphasised when Hill opening up with a reverse pass, the visitors commenced to handle. The ball came out nicely across to Orcutt, who sprinted away, but fell to a splendid collar by Millington.

Huins, with a capital effort was nearly through for Moseley, and for the next few minutes the Midlanders had the better of the exchanges. It was keen, hard, dashing football, both teams showing up well at times.

The Gloucester forwards were getting the ball well in the scrums, but the combination behind was not a success. Voyce was conspicuous for some splendid work, bringing off a couple of strong runs. This gave the City territorial advantage and Milliner picking up threw wide to Saxby, who took the ball cleverly and sent to Loveridge, but the wing man could not reach it. Just before the interval Hill (Moseley) was penalised, and MILLINGTON kicked a fine goal.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (p) 1 try

MOSELEY 1 try

Moseley hardly deserved to be three points down, for they had had quite as much of the play as the City, and were certainly better behind. The advantage of the wind was at once seen on the restart, for with a big punt Moseley quickly forced a minor.

Resuming, the City forwards broke away in the loose, and, picking up, Hall dashed away. A pass to Voyce saw the International make a big dash for a score, but he was tackled in time and forced to touch. Scrappy play by Gloucester lost ground, and after passing by Moseley Parry was given possession. Running hard, the right-winger went strongly for the corner, but fell a victim to Millington – another glorious tackle. From a kick-out by Saxby Pritchard made his mark, but his kick went straight to Hughes, who opened out, but nothing resulted.

Some grand rushes by the Gloucester forwards gave some anxious moments to Moseley, but the Midlanders' defence was very safe. Play just now had lost its spectacular character, the forwards being mainly engaged. Each side was in turn penalised, but little resulted. Then Hughes and Milliner worked out a pretty movement on the right, and the ball coming back inside Ayliffe moved off strongly, but with a score in view he was laid low, and Moseley escaped.

Gloucester had one or two possible chances after this, but the play was reckless, and the opportunities were thrown away.

Another determined thrust by Voyce was stopped, but a minute later Brown brought off a grand run through his opponents, being tackled just outside. He let the ball go, however, and LOVERIDGE gathering swept over the line with a try. Millington failed to add the goal points.

Six points ahead, Gloucester resumed the struggle with great keenness, but Moseley with good kicking sent over the home line, where Millington and Brown ran the ball out. Brown was again to the fore with a sharp dash, but was temporarily knocked out.

When the game was resumed the Moseley backs got away smartly, and Orcutt dashed down touch and punted. A penalty was given against Gloucester for obstruction, a good attempt at goal being made by Batchelor.

Subsequent exchanges favoured Moseley, who made several dangerous attacks. Voyce was to the fore with a splendid relief, but the Midlanders worked back and kept the game moving at a fast pace. Gloucester could not seem to do anything in the way of combination, and generally lost ground when they handled.

From a penalty Batchelor had another shot for goal, but missed. Instead of touching down, Saxby punted out to ORCUTT, who with a left-foot drop from near the touch-line, landed a lovely goal. This brought the tally to 9–7, with every chance of Moseley snatching a victory.

Loveridge had been off the field for some ten minutes, Hemmings figuring on the wing. The Gloucester forwards continued to work desperately, but the third line was not of much assistance. A fine passing run by Moseley promised well, but Parry's inside transfer was luckily captured by Brown, and the situation saved.

Hughes was instrumental in gaining relief from a dangerous situation, but Huins and Orcutt got back with strong runs. Gloucester cleared effectually with good play, and at the finish the game ruled near the centre.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (p), 2 tries (9 pts.)
MOSELEY 1 goal (d), 1 try (7 pts.)

REMARKS

Gloucester maintained their winning sequence this afternoon, but an impartial observer would be forced to admit Moseley were a trifle unlucky in being on the losing side. The Midlanders were a dashing and clever lot, and in combination, accurate handling, and straight running at three-quarter were greatly in advance of the home men.

Moseley's opening try was a perfect example of all that is best in spectacular Rugby, and it was a real delight to find the effort so readily appreciated by the spectators, who continued cheering for some time after the point had been registered. There were other occasions when the visitors displayed their speed and resource, but this try was the tit-bit of the afternoon.

To Millington and the forwards Gloucester were mainly indebted for their narrow win. The City custodian again triumphed over opponents in some very effective tackling, and his general display reached a very high standard.

The forwards worked finely in the scrums, and their dash and determination in the loose often overcame the opposition. But in the finer points there was occasional recklessness, and Moseley profited in more than once instance. Voyce was a great worker in the open, and the International brought off some very fine bursts, experiencing hard lines in not scoring on two or three occasions. Of the others, Reed, Short and Hemmings were perhaps the most conspicuous, though the veteran Hall did excellently in the lines-out and the open.

The Moseley pack possessed speed and tackling powers, and several of the players showed they could handle the ball with accuracy and skill. Their footwork, too, was highly creditable.

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