

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21, 1925

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER OUT-POINTED AND WELL BEATEN

BRILLIANT BACK PLAY BY NEWPORT

CITY TEAM OFF COLOUR

Ideal weather favoured the visit of Newport at Kingsholm, and with the ground in splendid condition a large crowd of spectators looked forward to a keen and interesting game. Both clubs were strongly represented, Hughes, the Gloucester centre, happily recovered from his injury at Oxford, re-appearing in the side. Newport were short of Andrews and Harold Davies (three-quarter), and Roche (forward).

Teams :

GLOUCESTER

BACK : T. Millington.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. C. Thompson, E. H. Hughes, E. L. Saxby, and S. A. Brown.

HALF-BACKS : Dr. Taylor and R. Milliner.

FORWARDS : A. T. Voyce (capt.), F. W. Ayliffe, J. Read, M. Short, S. Duberley, H. Roberts, J. Hemmings, and E. Triggs-Herbert.

NEWPORT

BACK : W. Everson.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. Stock, Dr. Graham Davies, G. Goldsworthy, and H. Vaughan.

HALF-BACKS : V. M. Griffiths and E. Dowdall.

FORWARDS : N. McPherson, Tom Jones, D. Jones, R. Hathaway, W. Friend, W. Casey, M. Burke, and H. Phillips.

Referee : Mr. F. G. Stephens (Birmingham)

THE GAME

The visiting team were accorded a rousing reception on entering the enclosure. Voyce kicked off for Gloucester five minutes late, and following an exchange of kicks touch was found at the centre. Newport partly wheeled the first scrum, but Milliner gathered and passed to Saxby, who punted down to Everson. The latter replied neatly and Millington had to run back to gather. Being closely pressed the City custodian was only able to get a weak kick into touch. Gloucester rushed out with footwork, and later Taylor, with a smart pick up, went round on the blind side and passed inside, but nothing resulted.

Play was at the centre when the Gloucester forwards dribbled away, but Everson checked them beautifully. Kicks by Taylor and Saxby put the City well down, and Newport had to concede a minor. Brilliant footwork by Newport gained some 30 yards before Saxby nipped in and effected a clever clearance to the Newport 25.

Newport were getting the ball in the scrum, but an infringement gave Gloucester a penalty. Voyce put in his usual little punt and started passing, but it broke down and Newport rushed right away. The ball was kicked over the line, but Hughes raced back and touched down – a narrow escape.

Voyce charged down the return from the drop-out and centre play followed. Gloucester tried passing, but Saxby was pulled down in trying to break through. The Newport backs replied immediately, and Stock, the last to receive, ran hard. He cross-punted cleverly, but Gloucester managed to save from the oncoming forwards.

Working well together, and assisted by Milliner, Gloucester made tracks for their opponents quarters and Everson was closely pressed. Good kicking gained relief, but Gloucester kept up the offensive. The game was opened out, but the passing went wrong, and a visitor intercepted. He passed to Davies, who returned to Goldsworthy on reaching Millington, but a glorious opening was lost by a faulty transfer.

Fine kicking by Taylor gave Gloucester the advantage, and Everson being beaten by the bounce of the ball the Newport line was placed in jeopardy. Newport gained temporary relief, but the City came back in resolute style, and desperate attacks followed. Milliner and Taylor in turn made heroic efforts to cross, but the defence was great.

Hughes also tried a break-through, but he was held up and then in some loose play Newport gained breathing space. They, however, would not get far, and from a punt by Milliner another touchdown was recorded.

It was keen and exciting football, with little in it, Gloucester holding their own well. Eventually Newport broke away, and a Gloucester kick being charged down the visitors had a chance. The ball was sent over the line, where Saxby was well on the spot to make the touch. But the bounce of the ball beat him, and GRIFFITHS, dashing up, scored the softest of tries. Stock missed the goal points. This was a lucky try indeed.

Voyce restarted, and the Gloucester forwards made a dashing burst, which Everson checked. Then Dowdall got the ball away nicely, and Stock punted high, but Millington got in a lovely left-foot return. Good work by the City on the left made headway, out of which Hemmings came with a strong run. He worked out a nice opening, but his pass went astray, with a chance of equalising the scores.

Newport cleared from a dangerous position, and brilliant passing carried play more than half the length of the ground. Right on the line, however, the ball was knocked on. A scrum was formed five yards outside, and Milliner getting off-side, a penalty followed. From the easy place EVERSON kicked a goal, and Newport were six points ahead.

Just now Newport were playing clever football and were too smart for Gloucester all round. On the resumption there were some keen exchanges at midfield, ending in the Newport forwards with dashing footwork reaching the home 25.

Gloucester were hard pressed, but good saving at the critical moment prevented the line being crossed. The City, however, were again penalised, and Everson made a fine attempt to land a goal, the ball going just outside the upright.

HALF-TIME :

NEWPORT 1 goal (p) 1 try
GLOUCESTER Nil

There was nothing particularly meritorious in either of the Newport scores, but the Welshmen deserved their lead, for they played smarter and cleverer football. Following the restart Milliner got the ball out to Saxby who punted hard and sent over the line for a minor.

Newport broke away from the drop-out, but were stopped at the centre flag. Here play hovered for a couple of minutes until Dowdall opened out with a reverse pass. The ball came along to Graham Davies, who put in a short punt, but failed to gather. A colleague kicked ahead to Millington, who returned nicely to touch.

With a combined loose rush the City forwards carried all before them, and for a moment it looked as if they would carry the ball over, but the Welshmen saved in time. With a similar effort Newport cleared, and the visitors had the better of the exchanges. The City forwards struggled hard, but there were mistakes behind which Newport were quick to take advantage of.

Voyce, being collared in possession, was robbed of the ball, which was kicked to the line, where Millington and two or three opponents scrambled for possession. The result was a try awarded to DAN JONES, from which place-kick Everson landed a goal, making the score 14 points to nil in Newport's favour.

Not discouraged, Gloucester resumed with vigour, and at length the City's efforts were rewarded with a grand penalty goal kicked by VOYCE from ten yards from the centre line. It was a fine shot, and loudly cheered.

The game was continued with increased vigour, Gloucester showing up splendidly forward. Behind, however, the visitors were always the better team, both in tactics and general cleverness. Gloucester had a fair share of the game, but the Welshmen showed up brilliantly amongst the backs. Once Vaughan was sent away beautifully by Goldsworthy, but Hughes came along with a grand tackle. On the other side Stock was given a chance, but his pass inside was ruled forward.

It was fast, open football for the next few minutes, and Newport three times in quick succession dropped for goal, but without success. The game waged in the home half, but nothing attempted by the Gloucester backs promised well, the Newport marking being too close. Newport gained the upper hand again, and DOWDALL charging down a kick close in by Voyce dropped over the line with a try. Everson missed the goal points.

Newport, with a big lead, took the game in hand now, and another passing bout looked dangerous. The situation was saved and the City worked back to beyond the centre by the aid of a penalty. Everson recovered a mistake in fielding cleverly, and regained lost ground. Then the Newport backs shone in a brilliant series of exchanges, but again Hughes bundled Vaughan into touch. Newport continued to make play delightfully open, and again the backs handled smartly, but Stock could not get away from Thompson, who effected a good tackle. The Welshmen, however, were soon off again, and though Gloucester saved near the goal, the ball was picked up and sent across to STOCK who only had to put it over the line. Everson failed at goal.

The last five minutes were all in favour of Newport though once Taylor intercepted and broke clean through. He beat Everson and shook off another opponent coming up from behind, but this slowed him down, and he was eventually collared. This was the last incident in a game in which Newport were brilliant winners.

RESULT :

NEWPORT 2 goals (1p), 3 tries (17 pts.)
GLOUCESTER 1 goal (p) (3 pts.)

REMARKS

Gloucester were a well-beaten side to-day. All round Newport were the cleverer team, and in the second half the combination, running and passing of the Welshmen were brilliant.

In comparison the Gloucester backs were made to appear a very ordinary set, especially in attack, where the tactics were bad, mistakes frequent, and judgment lacking. The only redeeming features were the fine individual play of Taylor, who worked hard to give his side openings, and the wonderful tackling of Hughes. Not once, but several times, the City line was saved by the centre getting across and, by perfectly judged tackles, bringing the Newport wing down.

The early stages of the game did not suggest Gloucester would be beaten so badly, and Newport's two opening scores – Griffiths' try and Everson's penalty goal – were points given away. From these mistakes the City did not recover, and once the Newport attack was in real working order the home team scarcely got a chance.

In pace, cleverness and skill behind Newport held a distinct advantage, and Everson at full back fully sustained the high reputation he has gained this season. To a certain extent the home backs played into his hands with their ill-judged kicking; but Everson had some dangerous situations to deal with at times. He never failed, however, and was efficient in everything he attempted. A Welsh cap should be almost certain for the Newport custodian if he maintains the form he showed at Kingsholm to-day. Millington was overshadowed by the brilliance of his rival, and, though doing good work on occasions, he was not so sound as usual.

Newport showed a bit of the old-time Welsh Rugby this afternoon, and the back division did much better than any team at Kingsholm for a long period. Dowdall and Griffiths formed a perfect connecting link at half, and they worked either side of the scrum with great skill.

The service of transfers, too, was well-nigh perfect, and behind this clever pair Stock, Graham Davies, Goldsworthy and Vaughan worked beautifully together. Gloucester, on the other hand, were never happy, and few movements attempted carried far. Milliner did a lot of stopping, but Taylor, with Hughes, were easily the best players on the home side. As a combined unit there was no comparison between the rival sides.

The Gloucester forwards worked desperately hard all through, but in opportunism and finish they were not the equal of their opponents. Both sides put plenty of vigour into their play, and the tackling was strenuous to a degree, but there was no incident to mar the pleasure of a really enjoyable game.

Voyce was not his usual success this afternoon, and for downright hard work Read, Roberts and Hemmings were as good as any players in the City pack. Newport were very fast on the ball, and the men were as effective in the scrums as in the open. McPherson, Tom Jones, Friend and Hathway were always prominent.

Next week : County Championship match ; Gloucestershire v. Somerset, at Kingsholm (kick-off 2.45).

GLOUCESTER A v. NEWPORT A

WELSH CLUB'S RESERVES WIN BY 14 POINTS

WILLIAMS LANDS A PENALTY GOAL FOR VISITORS

At Newport. Gloucester had the early advantage, but their finish was faulty. S. Williams, the visitors' full-back, had the better of the exchanges with the Newport last line of defence, and though Gloucester put in a number of rushes, the Newport passing was much more effective. Allen scored an unconverted try.

Half-time :

Newport A 1 try
Gloucester A Nil

In the second half Boucher scored a try for Newport, which Allen converted. Then Bown increased the lead, and two further unconverted tries were scored by Dixon.

Gloucester played better than in the first half, and Williams landed a penalty goal right at the end.

Result :

Newport A 1 goal 4 tries (17 points)

Gloucester A 1 goal (p) (3 points)

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