

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY JANUARY 9, 1926

## FOOTBALL

### COVENTRY'S LAST MINUTE VICTORY

FORD SCORES WINNING TRY AGAINST HIS OLD CLUB

WEAKENED GLOUCESTER TEAM'S FINE PERFORMANCE

Gloucester visited Coventry to-day for the return match, the first game having gone in favour of the City by 12 points to nil.

Coventry, with two ex-Gloucester forwards in their ranks (Coulson and Ford) have had an exceptionally successful season, and were unbeaten at home. Their only defeat, beside the one sustained at Kingsholm, were by Leicester and Guy's Hospital, both away, and one of their biggest performances was the triumph over Cardiff, on the latter's ground, a fortnight ago.

For to-day's engagement Gloucester were again minus the services of their captain (T. Voyce), Dr. Taylor, and Sid Brown (the latter not having sufficiently recovered from the "flu"), and also M. Short.

Coventry were without their captain (H. J. Pemberton), who broke a finger bone last week and is not likely to play again for several weeks.

L. Bowkett, the ex-schoolboy International, who had been out of the game for some time, took the vacant position at centre.

Teams :

### GLOUCESTER

BACK : S. Williams.

THREE-QUARTERS : L. Abbey, A. E. Hopcroft, E. H. Hughes, and R. C. Thompson.

HALF-BACKS : T. Millington and R. Milliner.

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe, G. Foulkes, J. Hemmings, E. Triggs-Herbert, S. Duberley, G. McIlwaine, H. Roberts, and F. J. Seabrook.

### COVENTRY

BACK : G. Pitcher.

THREE-QUARTERS : J. M. Wale, L. Bowkett, J. W. Kingston, and H. Lee.

HALF-BACKS : O. Hicks and W. E. Lole.

FORWARDS : A. H. Evans, T. Coulson, N. Pugh, R. V. Howell, F. West, F. Ford, H. Wheatley, and A. Wyman.

Referee : Mr. A. J. Trollope (London).

### THE GAME

Coventry kicked off ten minutes late, Milliner returning to touch at mid-field. From the line-out the Gloucester forwards rushed into the Coventry half, where Wale picked up neatly and put the City on the defensive with a good kick. Williams fielded smartly, and Millington getting possession, the stand-off dodged two opponents before passing to Hopcroft. The latter fed Abbey, who eluded several Coventry players before losing the ball.

A penalty to Coventry on the half-way line saw Kingston find touch in the corner. There were two scrums almost on the Gloucester line, and from each of these Coventry were penalised. It was apparent early that the forwards were going to have a big share of the game, and in the first ten minutes there were only two handling bouts.

Ford was a prominent worker for the home club, both in the scrum and loose, but he was well marked. Gloucester had a short spell of play in Coventry's 25, where Milliner kept them on the offensive with good touch-kicks. Forward passes spoilt two chances for Gloucester.

Another fine burst by Millington, following Milliner's service from the scrum, resulted in Hughes carrying on the movement and transferring to Thompson, but the winger was pushed into touch near the flag. Gloucester, with the wind behind them, kept Coventry penned, and off-side against Hicks at the scrum looked bad for the home team. Millington's penalty kick hit the post and rebounded into the field of play.

Coventry succeeded in forcing the City into the latter's 25. There were frequent decisions against each side for off-side, Pitcher making two lovely kicks to touch from awards given to his side. Another series of scrums on the Gloucester line produced a keen tussle between Milliner and Hicks. The Coventry scrum half was much too eager, and spoilt at least one good opportunity by his reckless passing after the ball had come nicely from the pack.

Millington and Williams both shone in defensive work at this period, and Gloucester managed to survive a desperate period for them. Lole made use of the touch on every possible occasion, and did it with fine judgment. Another penalty against Gloucester for off-side saw WALE kick a goal from 35 yards out. This score was received with great enthusiasm by Coventry's biggest home crowd of the season, there being 6,000 present.

From the restart Gloucester set up a strong attack, in which Williams and Hopcroft both found touch cleverly. Abbey showed plenty of dash on his wing; while Millington kept a watchful eye on Lole, with the result that four scrums were formed in quick succession inside the Coventry 25.

The spell of pressure was ended when Milliner was penalised for picking the ball out of the scrum. Still Gloucester kept a strong grip on

the play, and Millington made another effort to kick a penalty. The ball fell short, and mishandling by the home threes brought danger until Lee kicked into touch.

The ball was quickly sent across the field by passing and kicking on the part of Coventry, but they were not up when Hopcroft fielded and had a chance of breaking away. The greasy ball was not easy to handle, and Hopcroft could not retain possession.

Millington, Hopcroft, Abbey, Hughes, Seabrook, and Thompson all shared in a passing movement which carried play to the Coventry line. Bowkett intercepted and ran 50 yards to enable LEE to score an unconverted try.

HALF-TIME :  
COVENTRY ..... 1 goal (p) 1 try  
GLOUCESTER ..... Nil

It was a splendid piece of play which gave Coventry their try just on the interval, but all the same the home team were not value for the six points' lead, and only bad luck kept the City from recording at least one score. It had been a terrific forward struggle, with little to choose between the packs, though the Coventry threes were better in handling.

When play was resumed Ford was seen to have a large patch of sticking plaster on the right side of his face. Gloucester made a sharp raid from the kick-off, and following a scrum almost under the posts, Milliner sent the ball out to Millington, who served Hopcroft for the latter to pass to THOMPSON and enable the latter to score wide out. Millington failed to convert.

Coventry's reply was full of energy, and passing started on their right wing to carry over to the left, where Thompson intercepted and ran thirty yards before passing to Hughes. Pitcher, however, brought the Gloucester centre down, and a fine chance was lost.

Gloucester's three-quarter play at this period showed distinct improvement, and more neat work by Millington saw a nice opening made on the right wing. Hughes and Thompson passed at great speed until the winger was stopped for a forward transfer quite close to the line. A number of lines-out enabled Coventry to throw off this pressure, but Gloucester were quickly back again, and clever work by Milliner on the blind side of the scrum ended in Gloucester getting a try through THOMPSON. This was not converted.

There were exciting passages after this, Gloucester being hard put to it to keep Coventry out. A weak clearing kick by Millington was gathered by Bowkett, whose attempt to drop a goal narrowly missed.

With the scores level, there was a desperate struggle, and fine handling by the Coventry three-quarters looked almost certain to produce a score. Kingston, however, would not pass to his wing man when the latter had a clear field, and the centre was brought down.

Gloucester did not hesitate to open out when opportunity offered; while they also made good use of touch; Hopcroft twice gaining ground by this method. Wale was a clever schemer in Coventry's attack, but Abbey kept him well covered.

Coventry had some advantage in subsequent pressure, and Kingston kicked ahead on one occasion for Abbey and Wale to race for possession. The Gloucester winger won, but he could not clear two opponents and was brought down, the referee next penalising him for not playing the ball. Wale failed with the kick from an easy position.

Keeping up the pressure, Coventry at last got ahead, FORD practically throwing himself over the line for a splendid try, which Wale could not convert. In spite of this reverse, Gloucester showed no slackening, though they were forced to keep on the defensive, Milliner once having to throw back to Williams to ease the strain.

RESULT :

COVENTRY ... 1 goal (p) 2 tries (9 points)

GLOUCESTER ..... 2 tries (6 points)

## REMARKS

In a game in which no quarter was given or taken, although play was not rough, there were some delightful passing movements. Generally Coventry were superior in this department, but the Gloucester three-quarters made a really creditable display in the same respect, and continuation of this policy will bring better results.

On the whole, Gloucester were quite worthy of a draw, but they would not cavil at the result. Ford was an extraordinary worker for Coventry, and was evidently bent on showing his football ability had not lessened since his advent to the Midlands. Bowkett was the best three-quarter on the field, being ever ready to seize any chance, no matter how it came.

Thompson and Hughes gave Coventry a good deal to think about, the winger getting more of the ball in this game than he has done for some time. His courage and tenacity were needed in scoring Gloucester's two tries, although Millington and Hughes had a good share in them.

The visiting forwards played another great game, and found themselves up against a pack nearly as good as themselves.

### HEREFORD WIN AT KINGSHOLM

### FINE RALLY IN CLOSING STAGES

### GLOUCESTER A BEATEN BY SEVEN POINTS

Gloucester A met Hereford in the return match at Kingsholm to-day, having won the first game by 16 points to 8 points. Hereford had E. L. Saxby at centre, and W. V. Berkeley, of Oxford and Scotland, in the pack. R. N. Loveridge re-appeared for Gloucester.

Teams : –

Gloucester A : G. Thomas; R. Loveridge, R. Gladwin, L. Gough, and S. Crowther; A. Gladwin and S. Collins; A. Rea, G. Shaw, H. Pitt, F. Sturge, J. Franklin, N. Fearis, A. Comley, and Pinkney.

Hereford : E. N. Groom; E. N. Morgan, F. M. Woodhouse, E. L. Saxby, and E. H. Wheatstone; B. G. Farrow and J. C. Haine; W. V. Berkeley, W. J. Thompson, A. B. Wilson, K. W. Pope, L. S. Vail, J. H. Hellier, C. M. Scott, and I. J. S. Yorath.

Hereford were the heavier team and had slightly the better of the opening exchanges. E. N. Morgan went close with an attempt to drop a goal from the wing, and then W. V. Berkeley, with a splendid kick, converted a penalty from over the half way line.

Gloucester A got the equaliser in about five minutes, when Gough and Crowther broke away on the left for the wing man to score a try. Gladwin failed to convert.

Hereford should have gone ahead when passing was started in the Gloucester 25, but Woodhouse's pass to Morgan (a nephew to Dr. E. T. Morgan) was yards too high, and Gloucester taking advantage of the let-off got back to the visitors' 25, where Comley successfully took a penalty kick for off-side.

Half-time :

Gloucester A ..... 1 goal (p) 1 try

Hereford ..... 1 goal (p)

Berkeley led the Hereford forwards in a fierce rush to the line immediately on the re-start, but Gloucester soon got back, and when the visitors' threes got on the move, Morgan was well tackled from behind by Loveridge. After Crowther had been brought down in fine style by Woodhouse when going for the line at full speed, Pitt got over from a forward rush, but the kick failed.

A good deal of amusement was caused when Wheatstone made a mark in mid-field, but infringing the rule placing the ball, the Gloucester forwards ran up and kicked away.

Hereford pressed after this, but their efforts lacked finish, and the Gloucester forwards worked down to the visitors' 25. Here after some passing by the forwards Gough sent the ball out to Crowther, who went over the line and got the touch after being tackled, Comley's kick failing.

In some scrambling play in the Hereford half Saxby got the ball away to Berkeley, who made a lot of ground before passing to Thompson. The latter re-passed in the Gloucester 25 and Berkeley touched down under the posts for Morgan to convert. Hereford were now only four points behind.

A minute later they were a point up, for amidst great excitement Berkeley again converted. Just on time Hereford went further ahead, Woodhouse cutting through brilliantly to touch down again between the posts for Morgan to convert.

Result :

Hereford ..... 4 goals (1 p) (18 pts.)  
Gloucester A ... 1 goal (p) 3 tries (12 pts.)

REMARKS

Hereford's rally in the closing stages was a splendid one, and it gave them an unexpected but well deserved victory. W. V. Berkeley was the originator and leader of it, and he was an outstanding player throughout the game. Thomas, at full-back, did well for Gloucester A. The City Seconds did well, but had they won as they seemed likely to do until near the end, they would have been extremely lucky.