

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY JANUARY 23, 1926

## FOOTBALL

GUY'S 6; GLOUCESTER 3

CITY BEATEN IN LAST MINUTE

INTERESTING GAME IN SPITE OF MUDDY CONDITIONS

The Gloucester team made their only appearance in London this season to-day, when they visited Honor Oak Park for the return match with Guy's Hospital. Tom Voyce, not having recovered from the injuries he received at Cardiff last week, was an absentee, and with Doctor Taylor not available, Millington joined Milliner at half-back and Sid Brown, who captained the side, played centre three-quarter.

With the approach of the Hospital cup-ties, Guy's fielded their strongest fifteen, and on the relative form of the rival teams were expected to add to the record of home successes against the City.

### GLOUCESTER

BACK : S. Williams.

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

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

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe, M. Short, J. Hemmings, G. Foulkes, S. Duberley, G. McIlwaine, H. Roberts, and F. J. Seabrook.

### GUY'S HOSPITAL

BACK : V. G. Boyle.

THREE-QUARTERS : G. Fellowes-Smith, V. R. Preen, J. G. Van Schalkwijk, and C. L. Steyn.

HALF-BACKS : T. O. Garland and P. D. B. Spence.

FORWARDS : J. Durr, W. H. Myburgh, G. G. Cameron, J. Popplewell, E. Hutchinson, W. Hops, J. H. Cullinan, and C. Kuriz.

## THE GAME

Triggs-Herbert missed the train, and G. Foulkes took his place. Wretched weather prevailed, a drizzling rain and strong wind making things very unpleasant for the spectators, who only mustered a few hundreds. The ground was very sloppy.

Gloucester kicked off, and the opening play favoured the Hospital, who early on forced a minor. From the drop out Guy's attacked, and were nearly through. Getting well away from a scrum, Spence fed Preen, who sent to FELLOWES-SMITH for the wing man to score in the corner within three minutes of the start. Hutchinson failed at goal.

Re-starting, Gloucester broke away, but lost the ball, and the Hospital dribbled back. Thompson gathered neatly and burst through, but his pass was intercepted by Steyn, who looked dangerous, but being forced to pass, he sent forward. Then Gloucester rushed back, and Williams and Millington gained ground with useful kicks.

The foothold was very treacherous, and mistakes in handling were frequent. A clever effort by McIlwaine, who was well supported by Ayliffe, led to the City setting up an attack, but the defence prevailed. Rushing and counter-rushing followed, each side in turn gaining the advantage. Williams checked well once at the feet of the Hospital forwards.

Play was confined mainly to the forwards, but the players found great difficulty in controlling the ball. A big rush by the Hospital and loose kicking caused Gloucester to be placed on the defensive, but Williams got the ball out of play with a flying kick. Hughes, with a smart run, cleared the opposition splendidly, and the forwards further improved the situation.

The City were doing well now, and Guy's were kept in their own 25 for several minutes. Big kicking brought relief for the Hospital, who attempted to open out, but Spence was well tackled by Brown.

Guy's now set up a warm attack, and Fellowes-Smith, after a dashing run, cross-kicked, but the ball went over the line, and Williams conceded a minor. The football was interesting despite the conditions. Guys' backs handled smartly and showed speed on the heavy ground.

Gloucester offered a stubborn opposition to their rivals, but the Hospital were having the better of the exchanges. The home team were awarded a penalty against Milliner, and from the cross-pass their forwards dribbled over the line, but only a minor resulted. Play on the drop out was at the centre, where Brown shone with a good piece of work.

The Gloucester forwards rushed well, and Abbey made further headway with a sharp dribble. Having obtained a good position, the City worked desperately to effect a score, and came very near accomplishing their ambition. Wheeling a scrum, Guy's forwards came right away, and a long flying kick sent the ball well beyond the centre, where Steyn picked up and passed inside, but Gloucester saved. Off-side by Milliner and Seabrook gave the Hospital a penalty in a good position, but Hutchinson failed badly in his attempt to land a goal.

By the aid of big punting Guy's held a territorial advantage after the drop out, and Gloucester were confined to their quarter for a period. The City, however, finally worked out, and by the aid of a penalty reached their opponent's quarter, and the position was further improved.

Gloucester made a praiseworthy effort to get on terms. From a big kick by Steyn, Milliner returned well and put Gloucester on the offensive, but the interval arrived with no alteration in the score.

HALF-TIME :

GUY'S HOSPITAL ..... 1 try

GLOUCESTER ..... Nil

Guy's resumed with a great dash, but Hutchinson getting off-side Gloucester made twenty yards with the resultant penalty. Immediately, however, the ground was lost by a similar infringement.

Brilliant footwork by the City, in which Seabrook and Ayliffe were prominent, led to Guy's being hotly pressed. The forwards were nearly through on one occasion, and a minute later Millington made a sharp dash for the line from a pass by Milliner, who transferred close in, but the ball went astray. For the next few minutes Gloucester were all over their opponents, but twice when dangerous they were pulled up by a great effort. The Hospital at length relieved the pressure, and following a loose rush the ball was kicked over the line, where Fellowes-Smith was just robbed of the touch.

It was a keen struggle forward, but very hard going for the players, who were plastered in mud. Even play followed for a time, but both sides lost ground owing to failure to keep a foothold or handle the ball accurately.

Garland and Milliner had a rare tussle at scrum half, but neither set of backs were able to do much. Garland with a break away and a short punt eventually gave Guy's a good position in front of the City posts, where Milliner was penalised for off-side. Durr took the shot for goal, but failed miserably, and Gloucester had a lucky escape. The City by dint of hard work came out to the centre, but Williams getting a kick charged down, Guy's quickly got back.

Play alternated between the two 25's, and on the whole the teams were well matched. Guy's backs, however, were better and longer kickers. It was due to the City forwards that the visitors took up the running again, and play was fast and furious.

There was a lot of indiscriminate kicking, and charged-down kicking, which caused more amusement. Williams with a run round and pass put the Gloucester backs on the move, but the latter could not travel far. The Gloucester forwards were playing with great dash now, and players in possession were tumbled over without ceremony. The City gained the upper hand again, but the desired opening for the equalising try would not come.

It was another penalty kick that lost Gloucester their position, but again the forwards retrieved the situation. Hard, keen football in the mud followed, but it was almost impossible to tell one set of players from the other. Gloucester got on top again, and Guy's were hotly assailed. In one big effort Abbey just lost touch, touch-in-goal being given.

From the drop-out Gloucester came back again, and the City had hard lines in not scoring twice in quick succession. Their persistent attacks were rewarded at last, the forwards going over, and HEMMINGS being credited with a try. Millington missed the goal kick, but the City were level, and they deserved it.

But Guy's were not discouraged, and three minutes after the restart a bout of passing left the ball with STEYN, who sprinted hard for the corner, and beating Williams, scored far out. The goal-kick failed, and an exciting finish ended in favour of Guy's.

#### RESULT :

GUY'S ..... 2 tries (6 points)

GLOUCESTER ..... 1 try (3 points)

#### REMARKS

Gloucester were unlucky in being beaten on the call of time, for their hard work deserved at least to draw the game.

The conditions under which the match was fought out spoiled good football, and there was a lot of scrappy play, but the teams entered into the contest with great keenness and the tackling on the part of the forwards was terrific. Guy's backs had plenty of pace behind the scrum, and both their tries were the result of the speed and dash of both wings.

Forward, Gloucester more than held their own, especially in the second half, when they played the Hospital almost to a standstill. Ayliffe led the pack splendidly, and Hemmings, McIlwaine, and Seabrook were repeatedly prominent for clever work in the loose.

Milliner was inclined to get off-side, but Millington did a lot of useful things both in attack and saving. The threes all played well individually, without being distinguished. Williams gave a very creditable display at full back.

### 37 POINTS TO SIX

#### BROMSGROVE HEAVILY DEFEATED BY GLOUCESTER A

#### CITY SECONDS THE BETTER TEAM ALL ROUND

Gloucester A were opposed by Bromsgrove at Kingsholm to-day. The home team made two changes, A. Yeadsley, of the Wagon Works, replacing Gladwin, and E. Fisher coming into the pack in place of G. Foulkes.

The teams were :

Gloucester A : A. Hopcroft; S. Crowther, A. Gough, A. Yeadsley, and R. Loveridge; S. Collins and G. Thomas; A. Rea (capt.), E. Fisher, H. Pitt, G. Shaw, A. Comley, E. Franklin, F. Sturge, and N. Fearis.

Bromsgrove : N. Salmon; N. Rushton, L. A. Bates, W. A. B. Weaver, and M. L. Bailey; J. T. Mitchell and F. Griffiths; T. Dury (capt.), P. Lyde, W. Jefferies, D. Rimmer, A. J. Perrett, A. R. Allday, D. Jones, and G. M. Clarke.

Loveridge put Gloucester A on the attack with a well-judged punt ahead, which Salmon misfielded, immediately after the kick off, and the City Seconds went ahead within five minutes, Comley scoring an unconverted try from a forward rush.

Although not so heavy as the visitors, the home forwards kept play in the Bromsgrove half, and Crowther quickly added another three points with a second unconverted try in the left-hand corner.

The Bromsgrove forwards generally obtained possession in the scrums, but the half-backs were unable to open out owing to the slow heeling of their own men and the quick breaking up of their opponents. The Seconds' forwards, however, frequently got the ball back in the loose, and the backs brought off a number of smart combined runs.

Following a short-lived Bromsgrove attack, the Gloucester forwards broke away and took the ball to the centre. Yeardsley and Loveridge took up the rush, and the latter passed back to Comley, who ran through and touched down behind the posts for Hopcroft to convert. Salmon, the opposing full-back, appeared to think there had been some infringement, and made no attempt to tackle Comley.

Gloucester fully deserved their eleven points' lead. The backs continued to show good form, and unconverted tries were added by Loveridge and Rea, both after passing runs, Rea being put in by Loveridge.

Half-time :

Gloucester A .... 1 goal 4 tries  
Bromsgrove ..... Nil

The opening of the second half saw Gloucester A well on top. They did not open out play so well as in the first half, and the only score of the first quarter were two unconverted tries by Loveridge and Yeardsley after rather scrambling rushes. Then Collins got the ball away well at midfield, Thomas, Yeardsley, and Gough handled, and Thomas completed the movement with a clever dribble; his try, which went unconverted, bringing up the score to 27 points.

Immediately afterwards Rea got over after a kick by Salmon had been charged down, and then Dury kicked a penalty and Rushton intercepted and scored a try for Bromsgrove. Crowther got over twice more before the end, Hopcroft converting the second.

Result :

Gloucester A ..... 2 goals 9 tries (37 points)  
Bromsgrove ..... 1 goal (p) 1 try (6 points)

## COMMENT

Gloucester A's big win was thoroughly well deserved but Bromsgrove defended stubbornly and the game was always interesting to watch. The City men were very much better trained than their opponents, and they were the better team all round.

The lack of a goal-kicker appears very marked from the score, showing nine unsuccessful kicks out of eleven, but several of Hopcroft's efforts were very near.

Thomas played outside half and was obviously of very much more use to his side than at full-back as in the last few games. Hopcroft was not too successful in the vacated position, and if the City cannot find a regular full-back for the Seconds it would surely be better to play a forward there than threes or half; who are strong in attack. Loveridge did very well.

JC