

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6, 1926

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER, 12 PTS. SERVICES, 5 PTS.

ANOTHER GOOD PERFORMANCE BY THE CITY

FAST, KEEN AND OPEN GAME AT KINGSHOLM

The weather was again unfavourable for this match at Kingsholm, which was the only game between the clubs this season, the first fixture being cancelled owing to frost. Gloucester were short of Voyce, and the visitors lacked the services of Lieuts. Maxwell, Lee, and Garrett from the back division.

Teams :

GLOUCESTER

BACK : S. Williams.

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

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

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

UNITED SERVICES

BACK : Lieut. Cooper.

THREE-QUARTERS : Lieut. Cumberbatch, Sub.-Lieut. Cobb, Lieut. Cowie, and Lieut. Fly.

HALF-BACKS : Sub.-Lieut. Davies and Sub.-Lieut. Sladen.

FORWARDS : Lieut. Agnew, Lieut. Branson, Sub.-Lieut. Armstrong, Lieut. McLaughlin, Sub.-Lieut. Duncan, Sub.-Lieut. Sears, Sub.-Lieut. Blundell, and Sub.-Lieut. Walter.

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

THE GAME

The rain had ceased before the time for starting, but the attendance was disappointing. Gloucester kicked off, the return going to touch at the centre. From the first scrum the visitors dribbled away, but were pulled up at the quarter line. The home forwards cleared, but the visiting pack were very lively, and failures to gather by home players led to the ball being kicked through to Williams. The latter picked up and attempted a burst through, but was collared, and the ball went loose. Millington, however, saved nicely.

Heeling nicely, the City front fed Milliner, and passing left the ball with Brown. The acting captain broke away with a brilliant run, and on reaching Cooper sent to CROWTHER, who sprinted home and scored in the corner with the first try. Millington failed with a good attempt at conversion.

On the resumption McIlwaine was prominent with a dashing burst through the thick of his opponents, but his pass went astray. A clever opening by Milliner led to a series of exchanges between the City backs. Hughes made headway, but a wide pass to Thompson was unacceptable. Gloucester pressed severely after this, but the Services cleared with the aid of a useful kick.

Play was very fast, and with the home forwards getting the ball out there was some neat handling. The tackling, however, was very good. With a splendid combined rush the Services set up an attack, but when the backs were set going little ground was made. From a pass by Milliner Millington made a fine opening, but his transfer was intercepted by Fly who raced clear to Williams. Thompson, however, got back and effected a grand tackle.

Opening out in their own half the Gloucester backs handled neatly, and Thompson brought off a fine run and punt, following up and tackling an opponent who had gathered. A lucky flying kick brought relief, and centre play followed.

Play was up and down the field at a fast pace, the home backs being continually in possession. One nice bout of passing promised well, but Crowther missed Hughes' pass and Cowie kicked away to Williams.

Even play ensued at midfield until the Services backs indulged in a series of clever transfers. From the wing the ball came back inside to CUMBERBATCH, who raced over behind the posts with a try, which Walter converted. Thus the Services gained an unexpected lead after the City had had most of the play.

Gloucester restarted, and the game continued to be fast and keenly contested. The City forwards were getting the ball in the scrums, but with the ground cutting up after the rain, mistakes were made in handling. The visitors were quick in their marking, and attacks started by the home team were nipped in the bud.

At length Milliner got away a reverse pass to Millington, who took the ball beautifully and bore to the left. A pass to Hughes followed, and then Brown received possession. Putting on his fast pace, BROWN rounded the opposition, and though tackled on the line in the corner got the ball down inside for a fine try. Millington failed with the kick at goal, but Gloucester had secured the lead again.

Gloucester had the better of the exchanges on the resumption, but occasionally the Services got the upper hand, and a possible try was lost through a faulty pass. Milliner was serving Millington with a variety of passes, but now and again the backs appeared to be too close together for effective attack.

A big dash by McIlwaine, from a pass by Hughes gained some twenty yards, but close marking stopped further progress.

Gloucester confined play to their opponents' half, but the City could not get the desired opening. Gradually the Services worked to the centre, where Milliner and Millington, working the short side of the scrum, served Thompson. The latter ran hard, but was forced to touch by Cooper.

Gloucester, however, kept up the attack, and after clever work by forwards and backs, McILWAINE threw himself over the line for a good try. Millington failed at goal.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER 3 tries

SERVICES 1 goal

The football displayed had been keen and interesting, with both sides playing the open game. From the restart the City backs were early in evidence, and Crowther, after a sharp dash, cross-kicked perfectly. There was a fine chance of a score, but Brown knocked on slightly in gathering and was called back when going over the line.

Gloucester set resolutely to work to increase their score, and Brown had hard lines in missing a try after a brilliant dash. McIlwaine and Milliner were just stopped in quick succession, but better success awaited a combined movement between the Gloucester half-backs and THOMPSON a minute later, the latter diving over in the corner with a capital try. The place kick proved unsuccessful.

On the resumption the Services made a sharp dash, and later the backs handled nicely. Cumberbatch served Cowie, but the wing man punted and Gloucester managed to save at the expense of a touch-down. The City came right away on the drop-out, thanks to McIlwaine, who sneaked away from a scrum and found touch at the centre. Gloucester made further headway on the right, and Crowther racing up just failed to keep the ball out of touch ten yards outside. Gloucester lost a good position through mistakes, and the Services set up another attack. Cowie had another chance, but attempted to give an inside pass which was dropped, and Milliner kicked out of danger.

For a time the Services had the better of the exchanges, but the game was very close. A long kick down, followed up by Hemmings, who took the ball on and past the full back, brought relief for Gloucester, but the City were pressed back again. With superb footwork Gloucester again changed the position, where the Services defence was seriously tested.

Milliner served Millington cleverly from the scrum, and Hughes coming up broke through in fine style, but was collared from behind just as it looked he was going to get clear. The Services' forwards were instrumental in shifting play to mid-field, where a high punt went to Williams. The City custodian, however, made a good mark, and with his kick found touch splendidly.

Gloucester, aided by well-judged kicks by Millington, gained a good position in the left corner, where the forwards contested matters vigorously. Once or twice the City went near scoring, but the Services' defence proved too strong.

From well inside their own 25 the visitors started passing, and the effort enabled them to get past the centre. Ensuing play was keenly fought out. A penalty was given against Gloucester in a favourable position, but the shot for goal went under the bar. Williams ran the ball out, and with a fine kick sent play to the centre mark. Subsequent play favoured Gloucester, but there was no further scoring.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 4 tries (12 points)

SERVICES 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS

The City accomplished another good performance this afternoon in a game full of interesting incidents – clever back play being sandwiched with some vigorous forward work on both sides. There was scarcely a dull moment from start to finish and play at times travelled up and down the field at a remarkable pace. Gloucester, on the whole, were the superior combination, and though there appeared to be a doubt as to the second try the City well deserved their success.

The Services were a keen and lively lot of forwards, and their marking for the most part was very close and sure. In the scrums, however, the home pack had matters pretty much their own way, and in no previous match this season has the ball come back to Milliner so readily.

The result was reflected in the work of the Gloucester scrum half, who gave out passes from all positions, and played one of his most aggressive games. The combination of Milliner and Millington to-day was well-nigh perfect, and the pair stood out as Gloucester's strongest asset. Millington's practised hand was evidenced in all the City attacks, and his display all-round was particularly attractive – equal to anything he did in association with Dix, which is saying something.

The Gloucester three-quarters were well together again this afternoon, though their best work was done in the first half. Crowther's opening try was brilliantly worked out, and showed the advantage of having a fast man at centre like Brown, who ran straight ahead and gave his wing man a clear sprint for the line. The acting captain did many other good things and it was a wise move on the part of the Selection Committee when they placed him inside behind Millington. This pair worked well together, and the change has made for greater effectiveness in the attack of the whole line.

Hughes also gave a sound display, but did not get the best of luck with one or two openings. The wings, Crowther and Thompson, could not complain of lack of attention to-day, and both ran hard and well. Thompson showed the stronger defence, and he scored his one try very smartly. The players will be severely tested next week at Cardiff, but they are capable of rising to the occasion. The Welshmen should not have matters all their own way.

The City forwards showed heeling capacity in this match, and the work in this department was very encouraging. McIlwaine deputised for Voyce as wing forward, and the Cambridge player fulfilled his mission with great success. He was continually showing up with dashing bursts, and both in handling movements and in the loose accomplished fine work. Short, Roberts, Ayliffe and Hemmings shone in footwork, and the other three players (Duberley, Triggs-Herbert and Foulkes) kept things going in the more strenuous exchanges. All round it was a capital performance against a dashing and keen opposition.

For the Services, Agnew, Branson and Duncan were frequently noticeable, but the whole eight worked with great vigour, and were seen to special advantage when hard pressed, wheeling several scrums very effectively.

Outside, the visitors were best served by Cumberbatch and Cobb, at centre. The half-backs were overplayed by Milliner and Millington, but like the rest of the side, they were good tacklers. Fly was the pick of the two wings, Cowie showing hesitation when in possession. Cooper made a creditable show at full back, but was not so effective as Williams, who followed the game intelligently, fielded with accuracy, and kicked with length and judgment.

Next week : Cardiff, away ; Cardiff A at Kingsholm.

GLOUCESTER A v. CHELTENHAM A

RUNAWAY WIN FOR THE CITY SECONDS

VISITORS MAKE RINGS ROUND HOME DEFENCE

The second teams of Gloucester and Cheltenham met on the Athletic Ground in dull weather, and before a moderate crowd. The ground was on the soft side. Cheltenham kicked off, but play did not remain in the visitors' quarters for many moments. The Gloucester forwards controlled the scrums, and some open play took the ball to the home 25. Here Turk failed to get his kick in, and the visiting forwards rushed to within ten yards, where Comley picked up and scored, for Hopcroft to add the goal points.

The Gloucester half-backs got the ball again, and passed to Gough, who attempted the dummy trick, but was floored by Moore, who just afterwards put in another great piece of defensive work, smartly bringing down Abbey on the touch-line, and Cheltenham worked down to the visiting 25, but were promptly ousted, and a round of passing being started at midfield the ball reached Gough, who easily eluded all opposition, including the full-back, and ran in with a try, which Hopcroft converted.

A further score came within a couple of minutes or so, Abbey getting the try, and Hopcroft again succeeding with the place kick. Thus in 20 minutes Gloucester had amassed 20 points. The visitors were now, in fact, "making rings" round the Cheltenham men. After Abbey had scored an unconverted try, the ball came to Franklin who had taken Gough's place temporarily, and who put in a strong run half the length of the field, gave the dummy to Turk, and crossed between the posts. Hopcroft's kick struck the cross-bar, and the ball fell back into the field.

Half-time :

Gloucester A 4 goals 2 tries
Cheltenham A Nil

On resuming Cheltenham dribbled into the Gloucester half, but lost the advantage by poor attempts to pick up. Gloucester were soon back on the home line, but being penalised three times in succession Cheltenham got into the visitors' 25, where Moore received the ball and kicked over Hopcroft's head. Following up his kick, Moore appeared to be tackled just as he was about to touch down, and five yards out was the order, and the Gloucester forwards brought relief to their side with a rush in close formation. For the next ten minutes Cheltenham did better than at any previous stage, Moore, Goddard, and Turk putting in useful runs, and the forwards doing good service in the loose.

Gloucester, however, came again, and though Fenwell recovered a lot of ground with a kick, the visiting threes were put on the move to some effect, and when the ball fell into Loveridge's arms he had no difficulty in beating Turk and scored in the corner. The place-kick failed. A smart run by Gough was the next feature, but Turk's tackle prevented a score, though within a minute Loveridge was in again with an unconverted try. Yearsley next crossed, but was called back for a forward pass. The end then came. The score told its own tale.

Result :

Gloucester A ... 4 goals 4 tries (32 pts.)
Cheltenham A Nil

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