

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1926

TRAGIC DEATH OF SID BROWN

POPULAR GLOUCESTER FOOTBALLER

FATAL RESULT TO INJURY IN ABERAVON MATCH

Gloucester Rugby football circles have been plunged into gloom over the holidays by the sudden death of Sid Brown, the popular vice-captain of the City team, which occurred at the Royal Infirmary early on Sunday morning, following an operation for an injury sustained in the match with Aberavon, at Kingsholm, on Saturday.

No one was prepared for such a tragic ending, and early reports were hardly credited, but as confirmation of the news gained currency it caused quite a shock in the city.

It is a melancholy fact to recall that twelve months ago last January Stanley Bayliss, another Gloucester player, met with a fatal injury on the same ground when playing against the Old Blues.

Mr. Brown, as usual, played centre three-quarter for Gloucester on Saturday, and his fine tackling was a feature of the play. In the second half, in collaring the Aberavon right wing, he fell awkwardly to the ground and lay prone. He received attention from the ambulance men and Dr. Greene, but after a brief respite turned out again and finished the game.

After the match, deceased (who resided at Primrose Hill, Lydney), went to his father's house, 29, Bloomfield-road, and later in the evening saw Dr. Greene. After examination the serious condition of the patient was revealed, and the doctor motored Mr. Brown to his parents' home, and later conveyed him to the Royal Infirmary.

Hemorrhage had set in, and it was discovered that the kidneys were badly ruptured. It was hoped even then that an operation might be avoided, but the hemorrhage became so great that the only chance of saving his life was an immediate operation.

About 6.0 a.m. on Sunday morning his wife and parents were sent for, and the operation was performed, but he sank and died half an hour later. Deceased, who leaves a wife and one child, was 29 years of age.

An inquest will be held at the Royal Infirmary to-morrow.

The deepest sympathy will be expressed with the widow and parents of the deceased in their tragic bereavement. Mr. Albert Brown, the father, is well-known in sporting circles being Vice-Chairman of the Committee of the Gloucester F.C., and Chairman of the Gloucester Amateur Athletic Club.

DISTINGUISHED FOOTBALL CAREER

Deceased, who was 29 years of age, was an old schoolboy international, and had played for Gloucester for the past six seasons. He had acted as vice-captain to Tom Voyce for the past two years. He was the City's leading try-getter, and had headed the list for several seasons. He appeared for Gloucestershire on numerous occasions, and figured in the recent semi-final of the County Championship against Hampshire.

Having a birth qualification for Lancashire, deceased had also gained his cap for the Northern county. Unassuming, with a genial disposition, he was one of the most popular players in the Gloucester team, and was regarded as the prospective captain for next season.

His death is one of the saddest blows sustained by the Gloucester Club, and his place will be very hard to fill.

MATCHES AT KINGSHOLM CANCELLED

On hearing the sad news, Mr. Arthur Hudson, Secretary, called a meeting of the Emergency Committee of the Gloucester F.C. and it was decided at once to abandon the games arranged for the holidays – London Welsh to-day, Cinderford and the North Gloucester Combination Final on Tuesday, and the ex-Scholars' match on Thursday. A further meeting will be held to decide as to other games fixed for Kingsholm.

ABERAVON PLAYERS DISTRESSED AT THE NEWS

On being informed by the "Western Mail" that Mr. Brown had passed away, the Aberavon team, who are staying at the Baycourt Hotel, Torquay, were deeply distressed at the news; in fact, they were unaware even that Mr. Brown had been admitted to hospital.