

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1926

FOOTBALL

WEAK MOSELEY TEAM AT KINGSHOLM

GLOUCESTER GAIN 5 POINTS' VICTORY

DISAPPOINTING SECOND HALF

There was no need for watering the ground at Kingsholm to-day; heavy rainstorms in the morning did the work far more effectively, and rendered the playing pitch in a condition greatly appreciated by the players.

Gloucester and Moseley are very old opponents, and the resumption of fixtures between the clubs has proved a popular step. Unfortunately, to-day Moseley were sadly disorganised owing to injuries and illness, the absentees including Drysdale (the Scottish full-back), Huins, and Orcutt (three-quarters), and Dodgson and Pratt (half-backs). Gloucester were at full strength, though Voyce was a doubtful starter. A reserve (Owner) was in readiness to play, but the Captain decided to turn out.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Thomas.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. N. Loveridge, Roy James, E. H. Hughes, and S. R. Crowther.

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

FORWARDS : A. T. Voyce (capt.), M. Short, J. Hemming, G. Foulkes, G. Shaw, F. J. Seabrook, G. McIlwaine, and G. P. Pennington.

MOSELEY

BACK : A. L. Williams.

THREE-QUARTERS : E. Parry, D. H. Payne, N. G. Lancaster, and J. R. McDowell.

HALF-BACKS : D. N. Bryne and A. Inglis.

FORWARDS : J. Wylie, P. S. Jenkins, H. E. Marwick, C. J. Byrne, S. Burman, R. N. D. Walker, M. Barker, and W. L. Barrows.

Referee : Mr. S. H. Budd (Somerset).

THE GAME

There was an attendance of about 4,000 when Moseley kicked off, and from the first scrum the visitors got the ball away and pretty passing followed. Parry cross-kicked cleverly, but Millington secured and found touch. The Moseley forwards continued to get the ball in the scrums, and the backs handled neatly. Parry again broke clear down touch and punted ahead, but the ball went out of play.

The game was fast at the centre, with Moseley opening out at every opportunity. The passing once broke down, and Gloucester gained a thirty yards' advantage. A move on the Moseley left tested Thomas, but the City custodian got out of an awkward situation cleverly.

The Gloucester forwards at length got the ball, but James was floored, and his pass went astray. Moseley replied with a fine loose dribble, but Thomas checked nicely. Still the visitors were again on the attack, but a pass going wrong, Hughes nipped in and raced away. He fed Crowther, who had a clear run to the goal line, but Parry overhauled the Gloucesterian and brought him down a few yards outside. From the ensuing scrum Gloucester nearly scored in the corner, but the flag was knocked over. Later Millington made a short burst and pass, but nothing resulted.

The referee (Mr. Budd) then met with a mishap, the ball apparently hitting him in the mouth, causing him to retire. Mr. E. Browning (Gloucester) took charge of the game, and Gloucester at once set up a warm attack. A possible chance went astray, but the ball coming out later to JAMES, the young centre dropped a neat goal.

Moseley resumed strongly, but Millington, from a kick, cut through beautifully and started passing. Hughes and Crowther handled in turn, but the wing man was fetched down. Faulty play lost Gloucester ground, but clever combination saw James feed LOVERIDGE, who ran finely, and beating the full-back, crossed with a great try. Millington missed the goal points.

Soon after the restart McIlwaine gathered and brought off a splendid run, handing off in good style and securing a fine opening. A timely pass to Loveridge enabled the vice-captain to run up to Williams, when he yielded to FOULKES, for the forward to put the finishing touch to a very fine combined effort. Millington made a good attempt to convert, the ball striking the upright and falling outside.

Moseley, though 10 points down, restarted pluckily, and displayed cleverness and skill when opportunity served. Gloucester, too, gave the ball air, and Hughes distinguished himself with a couple of smart efforts. With neat handling, and a run and kick by Parry, the Midlanders became dangerous. Parry, picking up in the loose, made a dash for the line, but was held up and lost the ball. Millington brought relief for Gloucester, and a forward rush and good touch-finder by James further improved matters.

Crowther went off the field now, and McIlwaine came out to wing three-quarter. Resuming, the City made a breakaway, and Voyce dribbled to the line, but stumbled, and lost the touch. From a return from Thomas, Williams ran round and punted high to McIlwaine, who ran strongly down touch and passed to Seabrook, but the latter was upset.

From a penalty Millington had a shot for goal, but a good effort failed. Following the drop out, Voyce was at fault in gathering, but Thomas made a wonderful clearance and kick to touch 30 yards down the field. Play was fast and interesting, some pretty movements being displayed by the Gloucester backs. Something, however went wrong with promising openings.

The City, however, persevered and Milliner opening out, the ball came smartly along the line of three-quarters to LOVERIDGE, who again beat the defence without a hand being placed upon him. Voyce this time took the kick at goal, but met with no success.

Moseley restarted strongly, and good forward work tested Thomas, but the latter was always safe. Opening out from the loose the visitors made an attack on the left, but McDowell was rushed to touch by Hughes. Moseley, however, kept up the pressure, and Loveridge miskicking McDOWELL gathered and went over the line with a determined burst. Marwick converted.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER1 goal (d) 3 tries

MOSELEY 1 goal

The first half had been productive of some fast and open play, and though eight points down Moseley, with their weakened ranks, had had a fair share of the play. Moseley restarted minus Barrows (forward), who was injured, and Crowther was still absent from the home ranks.

Early incidents were two strong attacks by Gloucester, Loveridge bringing off a strong dash and cross-kick which was well-judged, but the ball bounced awkwardly and Moseley cleared. From more passing James went through splendidly, but was collared from behind.

Millington next made a neat opening and pass, but the ball was knocked on. From an unsuccessful kick at goal by Voyce, the Moseley back ran out and kicked well up the field. From this point the Midlanders made further headway, and from a kick over the line Thomas conceded a minor.

Moseley had the better of the exchanges on the drop-out, and just now the form of the home team was not satisfactory. McIlwaine, fielding from a drop at goal by a visitor, ran well, but his pass to Voyce was forward.

Twice in quick succession Moseley were awarded free-kicks for "Not in straight," but Marwick could not find the goal with his shots.

Faulty handling by Gloucester spoiled passing movements initiated from the scrum; but Moseley did better, and Parry nearly dodged his way over. A penalty eased for Gloucester, but Moseley quickly came back. Play, however, was not of a good standard, and mistakes were frequent on both sides.

The game continued to lack incident, and infringements caused both sides to be penalised. When the rival backs attempted passing it broke down, and play generally was of the poorest description. After a lot of scrappy football Moseley gained a position close to the home line with a lovely touch-finder. Gloucester cleared through Thomas, but from passing McDowell made a desperate effort to cross wide out, being held up just in time.

Moseley had the better of subsequent play, and slackness by Gloucester gave PARRY a chance which he utilised by scoring in the corner. Marwick failed at goal.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (d), 3 tries (13 pts.)
MOSELEY 1 goal, 1 try (8 pts.)

REMARKS

It was a very unrepresentative team fielded by Moseley this afternoon, and to run Gloucester's full strength to a five points' margin does not say much for the form of the City team. The first half was quite good, and all the scores put up by the home team were brilliantly worked for. But what a transformation after the change of ends !

The football displayed in this portion was very indifferent, mistakes were frequent and the continued whistling for infringements became absolutely monotonous. To account for the deterioration is beyond me.

True there was a man off each side, and Millington and Hughes were handicapped with injuries, but this hardly accounted for the scrappy football witnessed.

Moseley did quite well at the opening, and it was surprising how easily they beat the home men for possession in the scrums. The visitors exhibited several clever passing movements, and against a less watchful defence might have scored more than once.

When they settled down and managed to get the ball to the backs, however, the City proved their worth, Loveridge, especially, being seen to advantage. He scored two of the tries – lovely efforts – and with McIlwaine was instrumental in Foulkes getting the third. James also shone, and his dropped goal was smartly and cleverly obtained.

The first half was not free from mistakes, but Gloucester had shaped well enough to suggest some free scoring later. Disappointment, however, was in store, and it must be confessed the City, on the play, did not deserve to add to their score.

Moseley too failed to keep up their early form, though to their credit they managed to score through Parry – one of the best of the three-quarters, fast and thrustful. What would have happened had the Midlanders had the assistance of their crack players can only be imagined. On the form shown by Gloucester the Kingsholm men would have been beaten.

Milliner was too often penalised this afternoon for not putting the ball in straight. Otherwise he did a lot of good work. Millington suffered with an injured shoulder, and in the second half he seemed unable to take his transfers.

Moseley had a couple of keen spoilers, who were also efficient in opening out, and the three-quarters were plied with a number of chances. Thomas was splendid at full back for the City, and never made a mistake. His gathering of the ball, kicking and tackling were alike excellent.

Williams was weak in defence for Moseley, and was well beaten on each occasion by Loveridge. The home forwards were not at their best, though Short, Foulkes, McIlwaine and Seabrook worked desperately hard. The Moseley pack displayed plenty of keenness and pace with Marwick, McDowell, Wylie and Walker the pick.

I understand Crowther is suffering with damaged ribs, and the referee (Mr. Budd) sustained an injury to his nose, the result of a collision with a player's shoulder.

Dr. Taylor, who has been holidaying in Scotland, returns home on Tuesday, and will be available for Gloucester next Saturday if his services are required.

Next week's matches at Kingsholm : Tuesday, Gloucester v. Cinderford (kick-off 3.30); Wednesday evening, City Juniors v. West End XV. (kick-off 6.0 o'clock); Saturday, Gloucester v. St. Thomas's Hospital (kick-off 3.30).

JC