

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1926

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER 19 PTS.; GUY'S HOSPITAL 3 PTS

CITY'S REMARKABLE WIN

DESPERATELY KEEN GAME BUT NUMEROUS MISTAKES

Guy's Hospital, whose only victory over Gloucester at Kingsholm was in 1924, when they defeated a weak City team by 5 points to nil, had several new players in their ranks for their match with the City Club to-day. Gloucester were still without Loveridge and Seabrook, and Dr. Taylor, who injured his knee in a mid-week match at Cheltenham, also dropped out. This let in Crowther on the wing, Hughes taking his old position at centre. The afternoon turned out fine, but a strong wind blew down the ground towards the Worcester-street goal. The kick-off was a quarter of an hour earlier, and this somewhat affected the attendance.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Thomas.

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

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

FORWARDS : A. T. Voyce (capt.), M. Short, G. McIlwaine, G. Foulkes, G. R. Shaw, H. Roberts, A. J. Owner, and E. Triggs-Herbert.

GUY'S HOSPITAL

BACK : J. C. Hutchinson.

THREE-QUARTERS : G. Clarke, F. H. B. Spence, V. R. Preen, and T. O. Garland.

HALF-BACKS : I. K. Thomas and W. D. G. Jones.

FORWARDS : W. H. Myburgh, J. Durr, J. W. Schabort, A. C. Clarke, J. R. F. Popplewell, C. Kurtz, D. Clogg, and J. H. Richmond.

Referee : Capt. Burge (Penarth).

THE GAME.

Gloucester won the toss, and Guy's kicked off against the wind and sun. From the first set scrum the Hospital got the ball away, and Garland broke clear and passed, but a good tackle saved the situation. Guy's went closer from the line-out, but off-side gave Gloucester a penalty and the kick brought relief. James further improved with a fine punt, and centre play followed.

Guy's again opened out, but the passing went astray. The Hospital had the better of the exchanges until a long punt by James was misfielded by Hutchinson. The ball went over the line and a touchdown was given. Following the drop-out Guy's moved off with some neat passing following an intercepted transfer, and Gloucester were pressed.

For off-side the City were penalised, and Durr took a shot for goal. The wind took the ball outside the upright, but Voyce having jumped when the kick was taken another was ordered. This time DURR landed a goal, the ball hitting the upright and bounding over the cross-bar.

Gloucester resumed, but play was scrappy. Millington had a long shot for goal from a penalty, but was not successful. Faulty play lost Gloucester ground on the drop-out, the visitors dribbling to beyond mid-field, where Millington got back and saved. Penalties followed against Guy's in quick succession, and with one kick James gained some 40 yards with a splendid touch-finder.

Still, Gloucester could not find their form, and were being hustled a good deal by the opposition. Voyce opened out from the loose, and Crowther fly-kicked through and tackled his man in possession.

The City tried an attack on the left, but it was checked. Then the ball came from Milliner and Millington to Hughes, but the latter was upset. The ball, however, rolled away and got out to the wing, where Hughes and Voyce sent over the line, but nothing resulted.

Play was fast, but both sides made mistakes. Gloucester's passing going wrong, a visiting forward dribbled through and past Thomas. Crowther, however, got back and cleared. Gloucester made headway, and Voyce had a kick at goal from a penalty, but met with no success.

Gloucester had the better of subsequent play, but the tackling of the visitors was so close as to prevent the slightest opening being made. A cross-kick by Crowther placed the ball right in the hands of an opponent, who punted ahead, but the City managed to save.

Gloucester, however, could do nothing right in concerted movements, and the players failed repeatedly. Another mistake gave Guy's a splendid chance, Garland racing away with Spence in attendance. The repass, however, was knocked on.

Gloucester worked better together in subsequent play, and there was some neat passing, but it went wrong at the critical moment. Short, picking up in the loose, feinted to pass and went through, sending out a wide transfer, but Guy's tackled with great effect. Gloucester, however, persevered, and after clever work MILLINGTON beat the defence and scored a nice try, which Voyce converted. The City thus obtained a two points' lead.

Play on the restart was desperately keen, but mistakes still prevailed. Gloucester had one chance, but James gave a bad pass to Thompson after drawing the full back.

Guy's then took up the running and Clarke made a lovely run through the defence. He gained a position in front of the posts and passed, but the Gloucester tackling saved the situation. Immediately after Guy's had another opening, but mishandled. From a kick by Crowther the ball was taken to the other end.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal
GUY'S HOSPITAL 1 goal (p)

From Voyce's restart a visitor made his mark, but Milliner fielded the kick and punted back to touch. Play continued keen enough, but both sides continued faulty in handling. Guy's now benefited with the wind, and by big kicking kept the game in the home half.

From a mark Durr had a left-foot shot for goal, a fine effort just failing. From the first scrum Guy's got the ball away, and neat passing promised well for a try. Gloucester checked, but the ball rolling clear a visitor picked up and dropped over the line. But the player was obviously off-side and a penalty followed. Gloucester were next penalised, but Durr had no success with his shot at goal.

Ensuing play lacked incident, for the marking at the scrum did not allow of much in the way of opening up play. Gloucester once broke away, but could not get any luck, and Guy's easily saved. The City, however, were doing better work forward, and kept play in their opponents' half. Milliner, Millington, and Hughes combined in some clever work, but Crowther could not hold his transfer. Hughes, however, recovered, and put the City on the attack.

After Thompson had had a dash on the right, Guy's were penalised, and Voyce had a place for goal. The captain sent wide, but CROWTHER, who had followed up, had no opposition, and gathering the ball touched down for a try. Millington landed a fine goal.

Guy's resumed and Gloucester showed up with some clever handling, but the movement was stopped in time. Guy's, very keen on the ball, sent through to Thomas, but the latter robbed his opponents and got in his kick. A knock-on by James – a very slight infringement – gave Guy's a footing on the 25, but the City worked out of danger.

Then came the finest movement of the match so far. Millington, receiving near mid-field, ran beautifully and worked out a splendid opening for Thompson. Serving the wing man at the right moment THOMPSON put in a great dash and went over with a try. Voyce missed the goal points.

With a ten points' lead Gloucester displayed much better form, and strenuously as they played Guy's were severely pressed. Hutchinson made a wonderful save at the feet of the Gloucester forwards, and again later was seen to advantage.

Still the City kept up the pressure, and after a desperate charge the ball was taken to the line, where Foulkes picked up and passed to CROWTHER. The latter side-stepped a couple of opponents and scored a good try. Millington failed at goal.

Guy's held their own for a time on the re-start, but Gloucester regained the ascendancy, and the Hospital were hard put to it to keep their lines intact. It was hard, keen football, with the Guy's defence severely tested at times.

The City forwards were going great guns, and Short was distinguished with a splendid individual effort. Right to the end the home team attacked, and after good work by McIlwaine, VOYCE crossed with the fifth try. No goal resulted.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 2 goals, 3 tries (19 pts.)

GUY'S 1 goal (p) (3 points)

REMARKS

It was a remarkable result, for Gloucester's form in the first half suggested the City, instead of a substantial win, would have all their work cut out to save the game. But, strange to say, both teams showed their best football against the wind.

Guy's, though two points behind at the interval, had the better of the play, and if their work had had more finish the home defence could hardly have held out. With the turf greasy on the surface, and the wind playing tricks with the ball, the players were often in difficulties, especially in handling and gathering.

Gloucester were the more often at fault, and the Kingsholm men took an exceptionally long time to find their true form. Errors in judgment, too, were frequent, and altogether the first half, except for a few isolated movements, was, to say the least, very scrappy.

Guy's were fully expected to show superiority after the change of ends, but the Hospital players could not last the pace, and in the last quarter Gloucester had the game well in hand. Tries came in rapid succession, and but for Hutchinson's plucky saving the score would have been added to appreciably.

Easily the best try of the afternoon was credited to Thompson, with Millington the prime mover in what was truly a lovely effort. Guy's were certainly caught napping when Crowther crossed with his first try, but credit must be given the Gloucester left wing for his opportunism.

It was a keen struggle forward this afternoon, with the Gloucester pack second best for a long period. But when the City attained something like cohesion, Guy's were out of it, and they finished like a well-beaten set. I did not like the tackling of the home players at times; it was much too high, and opponents too often got out of their clutches.

The Guy's men were inclined to stand off-side a good deal and the frequent penalties against them did not check the infringements. But the City did not benefit to the extent they should have done. The home eight still lack complete understanding in the scrums, and in heeling there is a weakness that must be overcome if the back division is to be properly supplied with opportunities.

The Hospital had several fast players in the front, with Myburgh (an experienced leader), Durr (a fine kick), Schabert and Popplewell frequently noticeable. In loose dribbling Gloucester held the advantage, and Voyce, Shaw and Foulkes showed up well in this department. In the lines-out and open Short was the equal of any player on the field, and McIlwaine, though not so effective as usual, played a dashing game.

The back play to-day suffered as the result of so much in the way of mishandling but now and again there was a bright interlude. Thomas and Jones had a good understanding for Guy's, but the wing forwards on both sides stopped a good many movements initiated at the scrum.

Milliner had a lot to do in stopping rushes, which he did effectively, and with limited opportunities did useful work in attack. Millington slipped the defence cleverly on occasions, and all round was a great service to his side.

Guy's had pace and determination in the third line, but one missed the expert judgment of such players as Schalkwijk, Steyn and Fellowes-Smith. Garland and Clarke on the respective wings brought off some capital runs, and Preen and Spence were nippy in the centre.

Gloucester were not distinguished as a line, but individually all the players shone at intervals. Thompson made the best possible use of his one real opportunity, and he tackled well. James' best work was in defence and some of his clearances with big kicks warded off the danger on more than one occasion. Crowther tried hard, but found Clarke had the pace of him.

Thomas and Spence served their respective sides splendidly at full-back. Both had a lot of work to do, but gave nothing away.

Next week : Gloucester v. Cardiff, at Cardiff; Gloucester A v. Taffs Well, at Kingsholm.

GLOUCESTER A v. BERRY HILL

CITY SECONDS WIN BY TWO POINTS

At Berry Hill, the home team kicking off against a strong wind. Gloucester A at once strongly attacked, but the home team worked out of danger with forward rushes. Gloucester A made good use of the wind, and with long touch-finders got an attacking position. From a good passing movement Stephens crossed in the corner and ran round between the posts. Comley converted.

Just after Fearis was injured and had to retire. The game was evenly contested until half-time, Gloucester crossing over with a lead of a goal to nil.

Early in the second half Gloucester A scored through Blackford, Comley failing with the kick. Berry Hill now took the game in hand, and from a good movement Johns scored wide out. Russell failed to convert.

The forwards broke away, and Les Hawkins picking up close to the line forced himself over in the corner. White failed to convert.

Berry Hill now had the best of the game, but splendid tackling prevented any further score.

Result ;
Gloucester A 1 goal 1 try (8 points)
Berry Hill 2 tries (6 points)