

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1926

## FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER CHECK RUN OF DEFEATS

DEVONPORT SERVICES BEATEN AT KINGSHOLM

FIRST TIME IN FOUR YEARS

Heavy rain made the conditions very unpleasant at Kingsholm for the match with Devonport Services. The Service team had been signally successful in recent fixtures with Gloucester at Kingsholm, and had won three years in succession, by 13 points to 8 (1923-4), 3 points to nil (1924-5), and 9 points to nil (1925-6) respectively. Loveridge and Triggs-Herbert were absent from the home ranks, and Crowther was also unavailable. The Services brought a good side, especially forward.

Teams : —

### GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Thomas.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. James, E. H. Hughes, J. Stephens, and R. C. Thompson.

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

FORWARDS : A. T. Voyce (capt.), M. Short, G. Shaw, H. Roberts, G. Foulkes, A. J. Owner, J. Hemming, and E. L. Saxby.

### DEVONPORT SERVICES

BACK : Surg. Lt. H. Joyce.

THREE-QUARTERS: Marine Summerhayes, Mid. Freeman, Lt. Murman, and L. S. Roberts.

HALF-BACKS : Joiner Husson and E.-R.-A. George.

FORWARDS : M.-A.-A. Luddington, A.-B. Paddon, Lt. Branson, E.-R.-A. Harding, S. P. Broom, Surg. Lt. Osborne, L. S. Brown, and Lt. Penfold.

Referee : Mr. Stanley Budd (Bristol).

## THE GAME

The weather cleared somewhat at the time of starting, but the attendance was one of the poorest ever seen at a First team club match at home. Gloucester won the toss, and the Services kicked off, Stephens finding a good touch with his return. From the first scrum Gloucester heeled, and after passing James kicked hard, the ball going out of play in the visitors' 25.

Penalties followed to either side, but little resulted. Then from a loose scrum the Services dribbled away and reached the centre. Heeling by the visitors saw Husson open out, and the ball went across to Summerhayes, who repassed, but forward was given. Again the Services opened out, George going through smartly, but faulty handling ensued and the movement broke down.

Play was keen and fast, and Thomas was tested, but he fielded and cleared cleverly. Well inside the home half Joyce picked up and fed James, who cut through finely up the centre. Some few yards away from the full back he passed, but the next transfer to Thompson was ruled forward with a splendid opening.

Gloucester had another opening a little later when Joyce punted ahead, but Joyce gathered and got in a good return. Clever handling by the Services' backs sent Summerhayes away, but the wing man fell to a good tackle by Thomas. The home forwards, with Foulkes and Short prominent, gained twenty yards with a dribble, and good kicking sent the ball to Joyce. The latter fumbled, but made a quick recovery and kick to touch.

In subsequent play both sets of backs fumbled in passing and promising movements were checked. The Gloucester forwards showed up well in the loose, and later Hughes gathered and started passing. The ball was got out to Thompson, who cross-kicked nearly to the line. Joyce received and punted out to JAMES, who recovered a mistake and with a lovely kick dropped a goal, giving first points to the City.

The Services restarted with a mis-kick, and from the scrum which followed the visitors got the ball away. George broke through nicely and fed Roberts, but the latter was finely tackled by Hughes. Short headed a dribble which Voyce continued, the Services half being reached.

Gloucester made further progress, and Milliner and Voyce joined in a clever bit of inter-passing, but a forward transfer spoiled it. The ball was difficult to handle, and failure to field by Milliner allowed the visitors to kick past Thomas, but Thompson fielded and saved. The Services were getting the ball in the scrums, but the backs could not do much effective work with the heavy ball.

Milliner served Thompson smartly on the left, and the wing man, after a sharp dash, cross-punted. Voyce was well up, and taking the ball made a desperate effort to reach the line, but he was held up. The Services worked out, but Stephens shone with a smart burst, and the visitors were hotly pressed. For not putting in straight the Services were penalised, but although Millington had two shots for goal, owing to an infringement by a visitor, he failed to cover the cross-bar, a minor resulting.

Play on the drop-out favoured Gloucester for a time, but following a sharp burst by the visiting forwards Husson opened out for the backs. There was some neat exchanges, but no sting in the attack, and Gloucester easily saved. The Services, carrying a scrum, threatened danger, but George took a fruitless drop at goal, and Hughes punted out.

A breakdown in passing by the visitors enabled the City to gain some 20 yards, and midfield was the centre of operations. Play was mainly forward until Milliner served Millington, and Hughes was eventually given possession. The wing ran hard and well, and when reaching Joyce punted, but the ball went dead. On the resumption Gloucester were pulled up for a forward pass from Saxby to Hemming, though the transfer was perfectly straight.

The Services shifted play beyond the centre line, but a great forward rush headed by Saxby overwhelmed the visitors. The ball was taken over the line, where Roberts just missed the touch. Gloucester attacked on the drop-out, and following a mistake by Murman, Millington picked up, and letting the ball go near the line ROBERTS went over with a try. Millington failed at goal. Gloucester had the better of the exchanges to the interval, but could not add to their score.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER .... 1 goal (d) 1 try  
SERVICES ..... Nil

Voyce restarted for Gloucester, and play opened scrappily. The Services' backs were served by Husson but they were too slow in movement and easily stopped. George once went through and passed wide to Freeman, who kicked straight to Thomas. The latter kicked out to Joyce who made a feeble attempt to drop a goal. The ball went wide to the left where Hughes received and after a short run passed to James who sent to touch.

The struggle forward was a keen one, but the Services got the ball more often. George, however, had a penchant for kicking. Subsequent play was devoid of incident, and was confined to the forwards in a stretch of heavy turf about twenty yards in front of the old grand stand.

The Services front eventually gained the upper hand, Saxby making one fine save under difficulties. The City eased the pressure but the visitors rushed back and only keen tackling saved the line. A splendid dribble, led by Voyce, brought Gloucester out of danger, but the Services were going strongly now, and again the home line narrowly escaped.

Desperate work ensued ten yards from the Gloucester mark, Freeman being pushed to touch just outside. Then George, getting possession, threw out wide to the left. James just got to the ball but turned it towards Summerhayes on the wing, who had an open goal. Hughes, however, got across, and with the help of another colleague pushed the wing man out of play. From the line out Gloucester touched down.

Resuming, Gloucester made headway, and Stephens, robbing an opponent of the ball, put it down and used his feet. He cleared one or two visitors, but Joyce stepped in and got in a good relief kick. Play was not of a high standard, though keen enough forward. Near the centre Milliner slipped away from a scrum and fed Voyce. The captain made off in characteristic style, and giving a nice pass to MILLINGTON, who had got into position, the latter ran over with a fine try. The same player converted, and Gloucester had a twelve points' lead.

The Services restarted with vigour, and kept Gloucester on the defensive with some sharp attacks. Thomas, however, was very safe. The visitors continued to have the better of the exchanges, and following a round of passing initiated by George, ROBERTS crossed from a re-pass from Freeman. Harding missed the goal.

Continuing, there was a spell of even play at midfield, when Stephens secured and went straight ahead. In trying to cut the full back he stumbled and fell, and thus lost a possible chance of scoring. Gloucester tried hard to add to their lead, but they were beaten off, and the Services again assumed the offensive.

Gloucester's defence, however, was too good, Thomas being very cool and safe at full back. Hughes was once sent off down the touch-line, but his short cross-kick was not taken. From this point the Services made a strong advance, but were pulled up before getting dangerous, and the game ended.

#### RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ... 2 goals (1d) 1 try (12 pts.)  
SERVICES ..... 1 try (3 pts.)

#### REMARKS

Gloucester were value for their win to-day, though the game itself could by no means be regarded as an attractive exhibition of football. The Services, as usual, were a strong lot forward, but behind there was a decided weakness in speed, combination and initiative.

Considering the number of times the visiting backs were in possession, they should have made a much closer fight. Husson, behind the better heeling pack, did his work extremely well, but George, finding his centres were ineffective, resorted to punting. These tactics, however, were not attended with any great success, for Thomas, always cool and certain in his fielding, was never caught napping.

Gloucester well deserved their lead at the interval, for though the general work of the team left something to be desired, they were better together and more dangerous on the aggressive. James's dropped goal was a very pretty effort, and the centre was seen to more advantage than in recent games. Stephens also accomplished some clever individual work, but the tackling of both players needs attention. Hughes figured in another position to-day – at right wing – and he did a lot of sound and effective work. He had the measure of his opposite number, and once or twice slipped away from him smartly. Hughes' defence, too, was very good; he always went for his man waist-high and rarely failed to bring him down.

Thompson put in one or two sharp dashes, and from well-judged cross-kicks gave his side possible openings. The City three-quarters, however, still lack activity in movement as a line, and this deficiency is more pronounced when opposing a fast and clever set. Immediately behind the scrum Milliner lacked the opportunities that fell to Husson, the heeling of the City forwards being again too slow and uncertain. Still, Milliner got through a lot of useful work, and it was a smart opening of his that led up to Millington's try.

Forward, the Services were the better scrummagers, and Luddington kept his men at it throughout. But the City gave a meritorious performance in the loose, and shone in a number of splendid rushes. Saxby was introduced into the pack to give more weight, and the old Hereford player gave a very promising performance. He was fast on the ball, did some capital saving, and tackled with good effect. With a better knowledge of the finer points of forward play, which he should quickly pick up, Saxby should prove a useful acquisition.

Voyce played his best club game of the season, being always in the van of the loose rushes, and making several strong dashes in the open. Short was always doing something useful, and Roberts and Owner came into notice for creditable work. Occasionally the forwards spoiled promising movements by over-running the ball, but the ground conditions made matters very difficult for footwork.

The Services' front kept things moving under the leadership of Luddington, who played a hard, strenuous game. Paddon, Branson and Harding were often conspicuous for sound work, and, as already stated, the pack were the cleverer set in gaining possession. There was no outstanding player behind. George was not so effective for his side as Millington, whose judgment frequently came to the assistance of Gloucester. This was emphasised when he positioned himself to receive Voyce's pass to score the best try of the match, and on other occasions. Thomas and Joyce served their respective teams well at full back. The latter was once or twice at fault in gathering the ball, but in each instance made splendid recoveries.

An interested spectator of the match was George Coates, the old Gloucester three-quarter.

Next Saturday Gloucester visit Newport, and Newport A appear at Kingsholm.

#### GLOUCESTER A v. WHITECROFT

#### CITY SECONDS' HANDSOME WIN

Whitecroft were at home to Gloucester A this afternoon, and found the City Seconds in capital form on a heavy ground.

Result :

Gloucester A ....3 goals 3 tries (24 pts.)

Whitecroft ..... 1 goal (5 pts.)