

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1926

FOOTBALL

NEWPORT 18; GLOUCESTER 6

WELSH CLUB ON TOP WITH FINISHED FOOTBALL

LITTLE AGGRESSION BY CITY BACKS

For their match at Newport to-day Gloucester played the same side as defeated Devonport Services at Kingsholm last week, Hughes again figuring at wing three-quarter in place of Loveridge, not fully recovered from the injury he met with when playing for Gloucestershire against the Maoris.

There was a late change in the City team, L. Bartlett taking the place of Short. In the Newport team G. Scott appeared for Andrews.

The weather cleared after heavy rain all the morning, but the attendance at the start of the game was only about 3,000. The ground was on the soft side, there being a very bad patch in front of the grand stand.

GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Thomas.

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

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

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

NEWPORT

BACK : W. Everson.

THREE-QUARTERS: G. Scott, G. Goldsworthy, A. Stock, and H. J. Davies.

HALF-BACKS : C. Jerman and V. M. Griffiths.

FORWARDS : Dr. Roche (capt.), H. Phillips, D. Jones, R. C. Herrera, W. Casey, T. Jones, W. Friend, and W. Morgan.

Referee : Mr. Barry (Cardiff).

THE GAME

Voyce kicked off for Gloucester, and the return being fumbled, Newport gained a foothold in the visitors' half. The home forwards attempted to break through with a dribble, but they were checked. After midfield play Newport opened out, but the passing went astray. The home team attacked with more handling, but Scott failed to make headway. A loose forward rush took Newport close, where Millington fly-kicked.

The ball was fielded by GOLDSWORTHY, who shook off a tackle by Thomas and another and went over under the posts, with the first try. Everson converted, and Newport were five points up after five minutes play.

Resuming, the Gloucester forwards shone with a good rush, and Everson was collared in possession. Play was evenly contested at the centre, where the forwards were keenly engaged.

The ground soon began to cut up badly, and the ball became difficult to handle. Gloucester heeling smartly, Milliner, Millington and Thompson combined in a pretty bit of work, but the wing man was pushed to touch. Gloucester held their own in the subsequent play, Newport twice losing ground with wild passing. Two penalties fell to Gloucester, from one of which Millington had a place kick for goal, but shot wide.

A big dribble by the Newport front tested Thomas, who was lucky in turning the ball out of play. From this point the Welshmen went away with a strong dribble, and the defence being beaten, DAVIES dashed up and secured the touch for a try, which Everson converted with a grand kick.

Following the re-start Newport had the better of some exchange kicking, and secured a territorial advantage. From a long kick down Davies started passing, and the ball came right along the line to Scott, who was beautifully tackled by James, who had got across. Newport got the ball out again, and this time Scott punted ahead and over the line, Thomas conceding a minor.

Gloucester did better after this, Bartlett shining. The forwards supported well, and a Newport kick being charged down, the City went very close. Failure to handle lost Gloucester their position. The visitors were playing well together, especially forward, and inside the Newport half the City brought off a clever movement, in which Millington, Milliner and Voyce handled smartly. The latter made a big effort to cross over. Being partially collared, he repassed to MILLINGTON, who scored in the corner. The same player failed at goal. Gloucester deserved this point, for they had played hard and keen football.

It was treacherous going now, but the players got over the ground at a fast pace. Newport showed up strongly on the resumption, but Gloucester displayed splendid defence. Saxby went off with a damaged leg, and immediately after the Newport backs made a brilliant attack on the left. The final punt, however, went too far, and Thomas touched down. Play continued to favour Newport, who had two fruitless drops at goal. Saxby now returned, and play continued interesting despite the heavy ground. Newport had the better of the exchanges, but could not add to their score.

HALF-TIME :

NEWPORT 2 goals
GLOUCESTER 1 try

Newport had exhibited superiority, but the City were by no means eclipsed. The visiting forwards distinguished themselves in the loose, and followed up well, forcing the Newport backs to indulge in some reckless passing. As an attacking force, however, the Welshmen held the advantage, and their kicking was longer and better judged.

Newport restarted, and the opening stages were hotly contested forward. Milliner was temporarily knocked out in a tackle, but was able to continue after a short rest. The Gloucester forwards with lovely footwork forced the home team on the defensive, but Stock cleared with a couple of relief kicks. Newport twice attempted to break away with handling, but the passing broke down after some clever exchanges.

The home forwards then took the game in hand and came through in dashing style to Thomas, but the City full back was not to be beaten. Gloucester replied with similar tactics. Saxby leading one fine rush which Everson just saved by making his mark. Gloucester set up a strong attack, but Stephens failed to hold a sharp pass from Millington. Newport cleared with strong forward play and in turn visited the Gloucester half. Here the forwards fought out more desperate exchanges, and in a scramble Milliner was again laid out. He, however, pluckily resumed immediately.

The Newport backs were given possession, and neat handling gave SCOTT an easy run over the line. Everson missed the goal points.

Milliner now left the field, but soon returned. Whilst he was away, Gloucester added to their score with a lovely penalty goal, kicked by MILLINGTON.

The Gloucester forwards continued to play desperately, and were conspicuous with some dashing bursts, but outside the advantage was all with Newport, who opened out frequently. The City were mainly engaged in defence and relief kicking, and in this latter department James did good work. Thomas, too, was splendid at full back.

Newport at length gained an opening through Jerman, who passed to HERRERA for the latter to race home and score near the posts. Everson landed a goal, and Newport were well ahead again.

On the restart there was a spell of mid-field play until James dribbled through following a breakdown in some passing. The Gloucester centre finally kicked across, but Griffiths proved the speedier, and after gathering he passed back to Goldsworthy, who found touch nicely.

From their 25 Newport covered nearly half the length of the ground with a loose rush. Thomas eventually checked, and later sent them back with a well-judged punt to touch. More passing by Newport saw Davies race away, but Hughes brought his man down with an ankle tackle, and the ball going loose Gloucester more than recovered the lost ground.

The City, working well, pressed Newport on their line, but Newport saved by the aid of a penalty. Another free fell to Newport, but little resulted. Ensuing play saw the game travel from one end of the ground to the other, the footwork on both sides being very clever. Gloucester held their own until the last minute, when Newport set up an attack, but failed to score.

RESULT :

NEWPORT 3 goals, 1 try (18 pts.)

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (p), 1 try (6 pts.)

REMARKS

Considering the state of the ground it was an interesting game, with Newport clearly on top in the finished football that was witnessed. The Gloucester forwards as a whole put up a stout resistance, and in the loose did fine work, but in the open play Newport were always superior. A lot of handling naturally went wrong with the greasy ball, but there were some clever movements at times. The Gloucester backs did very little in aggressive work, and few combined movements were witnessed.

Milliner accomplished a lot of stopping and saving, and Millington rendered useful service in general play. James and Stephens were seen to advantage in defence, but the wing men were not given any chances. Thomas was fully up to standard.

GLOUCESTER A v. NEWPORT A

NARROW DEFEAT FOR CITY SECONDS

VISITORS' FULL BACK GIVES FINE DISPLAY

In spite of the uncomfortable weather conditions, there was a fair attendance at Kingsholm for Gloucester A's encounter with Newport A. Both sides were fairly strong.

Teams : –

Gloucester A : L. Townsend; L. Abbey, H. Boughton, R. J. German, and S. Crowther; E. Goodwin and E. Stephens; A. Rea (captain), T. Hiam, H. Pitt, L. Franklin, F. Russell, E. Comley, A. Danks, and H. J. Ferris.

Newport A : A. E. Hodges; J. O. Lloyd, J. P. Capper, G. Weare, and H. Vaughan; R. Pook and W. N. Bailey; D. J. Hylands, M. Burke, D. J. Hughes, E. Smith, C. Williams, H. Peacock, W. Mayberry, and C. Huggett.

Referee : Mr. T. Wertheim (Bristol).

Newport kicked off and were kept on the defensive at the start, even although the City were without Crowther for the first few minutes. A penalty kick to the home team took them close to the visitors' line, where Hodges cleared from a mark. Some discreet punting by the Newport forwards brought play into the Gloucester 25. Here the visitors handled smartly, only to find really good tackling stopping their progress.

Townsend ultimately sent Newport back with a good left-foot kick, and in a scrum just outside the visitors' 25 they were penalised for an infringement. Boughton took the kick, and goaled splendidly.

In several strong attacks which followed Newport gave the home defence a hot time. Weare should have scored when he cleared the home line, but he lost the ball. Up to this time Newport had shown more strength in their advances, their passing being smarter and more frequent. However, two capital kicks to touch by Boughton assisted Gloucester to launch a spirited attack. Stephens gave a bad pass which enabled the visitors to ease the pressure.

Gloucester began to get the ball oftener from the scrum, and once Boughton cut out a good opening, only to pass recklessly when Abbey was well placed. If lacking a little in accuracy, Boughton was working as hard as anybody on the field, and covering a lot of ground.

Gloucester's footwork in the loose was a valuable asset in maintaining the offensive, and Hodges was kept busy at full back. He was very steady, and did several smart things when everything depended upon him.

Although the pitch was exceedingly heavy, the forwards succeeded in keeping the ball going, and one rush by the Gloucester forwards covered a lot of ground.

Even though the visitors were showing the better combination, it was surprising how Gloucester did most of the attacking. Their backs had one good bout of passing, which ended when Boughton was cleverly and effectively tackled, while in another advance by the same means the ball came along the line of threes from the left and out to Boughton, whose kick ahead was too strong.

Half-time :

Gloucester A 1 goal (p)
Newport A Nil

When the game was restarted it was seen that Boughton and German had changed places, German being centre to Abbey on the left wing and Boughton playing centre to Crowther.

Although they were quickly on the Newport line the home team were sent back principally through fine kicking by Hodges. There were two lines-out close to the Gloucester line and the visitors were unfortunate not to gain at least one try. More strong play by the home forwards in the loose staved off this attack.

A series of sharp bursts by the Newport forwards tested the home defence severely, the visitors keeping better control of the ball. Ultimately Gloucester again got on the move and Townsend tried a drop at goal, the ball going wide.

Hodges' touch finding was splendid and took Newport out of several positions that were anything but promising for them. Crowther effected a smart bit of work when he got round behind the home posts and cleared splendidly.

The game had been continued at a fast pace so far and as the closing stages were reached there was no slackening. Newport attacked desperately and in spite of two capital saves by Townsend the Welsh team took the lead. From a scrum Pook and Bailey set the ball going among the visiting three's, Lloyd and Weare carrying on the movement for Weare to cross with a well-got try[*sic*]. It was converted by Hodges with a brilliant kick.

Newport had drawn a forward out of the scrum and with this added strength in the three-quarter line they succeeded in keeping out the insistent home attacks until the end.

Result :

Newport A 1 goal (5 points)

Gloucester A 1 goal (p) (3 points)

REMARKS

Badly judged kicking ahead by the Gloucester players was the main cause of their defeat, in a rather scrambling game. The conditions did not lend themselves to good football but a few players rose above the difficulties. Hodges was the best player in the match, his touch-kicking being long and well-directed, while his fielding was most accurate. Townsend, though lacking the experience and speed of Hodges, put up a good display.

Newport had a fast wing in Weare and Lloyd and had they been played together Gloucester would have experienced more trouble. Boughton was conspicuous amongst the home threes but, like his fellow-players in the line he did not open up much combination.

JC