

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1927

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER LOSE AT LEICESTER

CHANCES MISSED THROUGH LACK OF FINISH

GOOD WORK BY VISITORS' HALVES

LOVERIDGE INJURED BEFORE INTERVAL

Leicester, Saturday.

After a lapse of four years, Gloucester and Leicester resumed fixtures this season, and the first of the two matches was decided to-day at Leicester. Owing to Seabrook and McIlwaine being required by Cambridge University against Rosslyn Park, the City were deprived of the valuable services of these two players, and Voyce and Thomas were also absentees. Leicester were short of Buckingham, their clever centre, but Day was expected to return to captain the side after a lengthy absence, and Norman and Flewitt, who had been down with influenza, were also available, the final selection being made from seventeen players.

Teams : —

GLOUCESTER

BACK : L. Townsend.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. N. Loveridge (capt.), E. H. Hughes, J. Stephens, and S. R. Crowther.

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

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby, M. Short, G. Foulkes, J. Hemming, E. Comley, A. Rea, L. Bartlett, and L. Franklin.

LEICESTER

BACK : L. C. Sambrook.

THREE-QUARTERS : C. E. A. Flewitt, G. A. Sweatman, W. E. Farndon, and E. C. R. Hopkins.

HALF-BACKS : H. D. Greenlees and J. C. Russell.

FORWARDS : F. D. Prentice, D. J. Norman, E. G. Coleman, A. H. Greenwood, J. H. F. Edmiston, M. G. Christie, J. M. Dykes, and Guy German.

THE GAME

There was a good attendance. Gloucester pressed from the start. Millington broke through cleverly to within 15 yards of the home line. They were checked by a nice handling movement from the Leicester backs, but Hughes had a good chance from a loose kick in the Leicester half. He dropped for goal instead of going for the line, and his kick was useless.

The Gloucester halves were getting the ball away from the scrum cleverly, but several chances were lost through weakness in the centre. Leicester retaliated with sparkling back play, and Loveridge had to kick the ball out of bounds to save his line, Gloucester having a narrow escape.

Gloucester had to turn to defensive play, and their line underwent severe pressure. Townsend worked hard at full-back, but eventually the home backs pierced the defence, Flewitt sending RUSSELL in with a fine try. Prentice converted.

Leicester kept up the pressure, but at last the Gloucester forwards worked their way to the home line, where they struggled hard to equalise without avail. However, Sambrook's lengthy kicking drove them back to midfield, where the Leicester backs turned their speed to good advantage.

Greenlees was almost through again for Leicester, but he was held, and Millington raised the siege with a fine run. He took play to the Leicester quarters, where Sambrook was called upon to do some strenuous tackling for some minutes, but the defence prevailed.

Gloucester were not doing as well as they deserved from the share of play which they received, for many chances went astray through lack of polish. A strong position which they gained on the Leicester line was lost through some wild kicking, and several times the threequarters elected to drop for goal instead of going for the line. They were soon placed in further arrears, PRENTICE kicking a penalty goal for Leicester for a scrum infringement.

Gloucester retaliated with a fine forward rush, and again they pressed hard on the Leicester line, but Sambrook was doing great work, and drove them back repeatedly with fine kicking to touch. The Gloucester halves, Milliner and Millington, were making good openings.

HALF-TIME :

LEICESTER 2 goals (1p)
GLOUCESTER Nil

Gloucester had to face a big handicap on the restart, for Loveridge left the field during the interval and could not return, it being found that he had ruptured a muscle of the back. Franklin went to wing in his place. Despite this, Gloucester got to the Leicester line, where Franklin and Millington almost scored. Farndon had to touch down to save the Leicester line.

A brilliant run by Farndon eased the position, and he passed all opposition and punted over Townsend's head and across the line, but the Gloucester full-back got to the ball in time to prevent a score.

Again Gloucester attacked and eventually from a melee outside MILLINER slipped through for a fine try, which was not converted, though Millington put in a good kick.

Gloucester were helped considerably by rather weak tackling by Leicester, and although the visitors were playing a man short, they were giving a very fine display. Millington was a dangerous man, and he kept Leicester continually on tenterhooks with dashing sprints. Their backs, however, were not combining well, and suffered in comparison with Leicester, who often handled in splendid style.

Leicester brought off one sparkling movement, and Farndon was nearly through, but there was nothing lacking in the visitors' defence.

Despite having an extra man, Leicester were well held. A vigorous movement by Gloucester was checked, and the homesters worked back to Gloucester territory, where a clever movement ended in SWEATMAN scoring an unconverted try.

RESULT :

LEICESTER 2 goals (1p) 1 try (11 pts.)
GLOUCESTER 1 try (3 pts.)

REMARKS

Gloucester were rather unfortunate to lose by a margin of eight points, for they played keenly and had a good share of the game. Loveridge's absence in the second half was a big handicap, and they did well under difficulties. The halves were in great form, and the forwards excelled, but Leicester deserved victory for better combination. The Gloucester threes lacked cohesion in attack.

GLOUCESTER A v. HEREFORD

CITY SECONDS HAVE A FIELD DAY

RIOT OF SCORING AGAINST WEAK OPPOSITION

Gloucester A presented an unfamiliar appearance when they lined up for the match with Hereford at Kingsholm this afternoon.

The majority of the team were in white, as the Hereford jerseys of red, black and white were thought to be too like the official Gloucester colours for the teams to be easily distinguishable had the City Seconds turned out in the usual cherry and white.

The home team quickly went ahead. The first five minutes saw them three points up, Thompson touching down for an unconverted try after a scrambling rush, and after ten minutes a dropped goal by Stephens brought the score up to seven points.

Gloucester A were clearly the superior side, and with the Hereford tackling very weak, the next ten minutes saw the lead more than doubled. Goodwin first slipped round the blind side for a try which Boughton failed to goal, and then James converted a score by Abbey after a splendid passing movement right across the three-quarter line.

There was now only one team in it, and the Gloucester backs, continually on the move, showed individual cleverness and good combination. Before half-time James scored a further unconverted try, and converted another which was obtained by W. Hoare, the Crypt School captain, who made a favourable impression at left centre.

Half-time :

Gloucester A ... 3 goals (1d) 3 tries
Hereford Nil

Gloucester A had a big advantage at half-back, where Goodwin and Stephens developed brilliant combination, and although Hereford took a man out of the scrum the home outsides threw the ball about with the greatest abandon. The riot of scoring continued, and in the first quarter of an hour of the second half unconverted tries were added by Thompson (2), Ferris and Shaw, bringing the score up to 35 points.

Although play was practically confined to their half, Hereford managed to keep Gloucester A out for a period, until six minutes from the end, when James scored behind the posts and converted his try. Before the end two more unconverted tries were added by W. Seabrook and Abbey.

Result :
Gloucester A ... 4 goals (1d) 9 tries (46 pts.)
Hereford Nil

COMMENTS

The City Seconds had a field-day this afternoon, but although the game was not exciting through the weakness of the opposition, it was always interesting, as the Gloucester A backs took full advantage of the opportunity to shine and gave an entertaining display of passing and inter-passing.

JC