

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1927

## FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER'S FINE PERFORMANCE

SPLENDID VICTORY OVER SERVICES

FORWARDS IN GREAT FORM

Gloucester took a weakened team to Portsmouth to-day for the return match with the United Services, for in addition to the absence of Loveridge, Thompson and Saxby, J. Stephens fell out of the side at centre three-quarter.

A trial was given to L. Townsend, who has been playing full-back for the Seconds for some time, but who appeared in the third line a fortnight ago, and shaped promisingly.

The ground was soft and wet, and a mist was in the air when the teams fielded as follows :

## GLOUCESTER

BACK : R. James.

THREE-QUARTERS : L. Abbey, E. H. Hughes, L. Townsend, and S. R. Crowther.

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

FORWARDS : A. T. Voyce (captain), F. J. Seabrook, M. Short, G. Foulkes, E. Comley, H. Pitt, J. Hemming, and L. Bartlett.

## UNITED SERVICES

BACK : Lieut.-Cdr. S. Boucher, R.N.

THREE-QUARTERS : Sub-Lieut. N. Kennedy, R.N., Lieut. A. R. Freeman, R.N., E. R. A. Nudds, and Lieut. W. H. Wood, R.N.

HALF-BACKS : Sub-Lieut. G. M. Sladen, R.N., and Sub-Lieut. G. P. S. Davies, R.N.

FORWARDS : Lieut. R. D. Fricker, R.N. (capt.), Sub-Lieut. D. P. Trentham, R.N., Lieut. G. C. Dickins, R.N., Lieut. Firth, R.N., Sub-Lieut. Linton, R.N., Lieut.-Cdr. P. M. Dawson, P.O. Lush, and Lieut. McDougall.

Referee : Mr. A. J. Trollope.

## THE GAME

The game started eight minutes late, when Gloucester kicked off against the wind. The ball went into touch, and from the line out Wood got the ball and cross-kicked, but no headway was made. Millington next set the Gloucester backs in motion, but Freeman brought off a fine tackle, and then sent Wood away. The Services' left wing punted, and James was tackled in possession as the result of a fast follow up.

Wood next cut between the opposing backs in grand style, but James was unpassable, and brought off a fine tackle. James sent the Services back with a good touch-finder. Later Crowther ran from left to right to clear the Gloucester lines, and the visitors gained a foothold in the Services' 25, but Linton broke away from the scrum and dribbled half the length of the field before the ball went into touch.

Gloucester were pulled up for off-side, and the Services were glad to kick to touch. The Gloucester forwards were clever in the lines out, while Voyce played an effective winging game.

Gloucester were pressing now mainly through the excellence of their forwards, who were kept in an attacking position by the judicious kicking of their backs. So far there had been no outstanding effort, although play was very fast and confined mostly to the forwards.

At this stage rain fell heavily. Another penalty against Gloucester saw Sladen kick just short of goal. The Services now returned to the attack. The game was held up while Hemming was being attended for a minor injury.

From a drop-out by the visitors Millington tried to send his three-quarters away, but they muffed the ball, and FREEMAN intercepted to score a try behind the posts, Trentham converting. This home success came after thirty minutes' play.

Play was even to the interval. Torrential rain now prevented any back movements, and play was confined to the forwards, who were pretty evenly matched. The Services scarcely deserved their five points' lead in view of the even play, their success being due absolutely to the inability of their opponents to handle correctly rather than to any particular cleverness on the part of the home side. Moreover, the Services' score reflected upon the unwise policy of Millington in trying to start a passing movement in his own 25.

HALF-TIME :

UNITED SERVICES .....1 goal  
GLOUCESTER ..... Nil

The players were mud-soaked when the game was re-started. The Services at once attacked. Gloucester retaliated, and PITT got a fine try after a fierce foot rush by the visitors' forwards on the home line. Millington went near to goaling from a difficult angle, so that the Services still led by two points.

Gloucester were doing very well forward hereabouts, Voyce, Seabrook and Hemming being prominent. The Services were penalised just outside their twenty-five, and MILLINGTON kicked a grand goal to give his side the lead by one point. Soon afterwards Hughes had a chance to put Gloucester further ahead, but kicked the ball over the dead ball line. The rain had stopped now, and the Gloucester forwards continued to attack, although on one occasion Wood broke through but slipped in the mud.

Ten minutes from the end the Services tried hard to save the game, but their outsiders failed to hold the greasy ball. Gloucester fought back, and regained lost ground inch by inch. MILLINGTON eventually gave Gloucester another try in the corner after receiving from the scrum. He just failed to add the extra points.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER .... 1 goal (p) 2 tries (9 pts.)

SERVICES ..... 1 goal (5 pts.)

REMARKS

Our Portsmouth correspondent says : Gloucester deserved their victory on account of their superior forwards, who excelled on the muddy ground. The Services were probably better outside, but the conditions were not in favour of the backs, who had few opportunities. James defended well, and Millington played one of his best games. Crowther was always dangerous, but honours went almost fully to the City forwards.

GLOUCESTER A v. CHEPSTOW

CITY SECONDS WIN A SCRAMBLING GAME

FINE TRY BY HOLFORD IN LAST MINUTE

Albert Rea returned to captain Gloucester A, as he was unable to go to Portsmouth with the Firsts. A. B. Clutterbuck took the right wing position in place of R. C. Thompson, and A. Lewis, the Old Boys' outside half, made a first appearance for the City Seconds in the centre. Chepstow brought a representative side.

The home three-quarters were the first to get on the move, and in five minutes Gloucester A opened the scoring with an unconverted try by Clutterbuck, who was put in by Lewis, after the latter had cut through cleverly and given his man the "dummy."

Both packs of forwards were quick to break up from the scrums and excelled in loose play. Little was seen of the outsides in consequence. Once Franklin broke through, and kicking ahead, tackled Ramus in possession on the line. But Chepstow worked down to the other end, and here Clutterbuck miraculously saved a score by touching down, when a forward rush by the visitors took the ball over the line.

Nearing half-time Lewis had an unsuccessful drop at goal, and then just on the interval, Franklin dribbled away from a line-out at half-way, and the ball bouncing into his hands, he beat the full-back and touched down to give Gloucester A a six-points lead, Boughton failing with the kick.

Half-time :  
Gloucester A ..... 2 tries  
Chepstow ..... Nil

Play was nearly all forward in the second half – a long succession of scrums, line-outs, and scrambling rushes. There was a good deal of kicking, and in this Boughton was singularly unsuccessful in finding touch. Though on the slow side, F. Morgan, the Chepstow full-back, did well on the whole.

The first incident which aroused excitement was a passing movement from a scrum on the visitors' line. The ball went right across to Lewis, who instead of sending out to his wing man, tried a reverse pass, which was intercepted. Lewis was prominent shortly after this, when Franklin got away at the centre and passed to Holford, for the latter found Lewis backing him up and sent him away. No score resulted from the movement, however, and the next time Gloucester A were seen on the attack, Morgan brought down Holford with a splendid tackle.

Just on time the best passing run of the day brought Gloucester A a further score through Holford. It was initiated by Goodwin and carried on by Stephens, Lewis and Franklin. The two last-named were tackled as they parted with the ball, and Holford, who had to run 30 yards, was brought down over the line. Boughton failed with the kick.

Result :  
Gloucester A ... 3 tries (9 points)  
Chepstow ..... Nil

#### COMMENTS

It was a scrambling game, and the form shown by both sides was disappointing. A. Lewis created a good impression and was always a live wire. Holford's try in the last minute was far and away the best thing of the match, and earned hearty and well-deserved applause for the young winger, who showed fine determination.

JC