

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1927.

## FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER'S BIGGEST SCORE OF THE SEASON.

NORTHERN BEATEN BY TWENTY-TWO POINTS.

FINE GOAL-KICKING BY MILLINGTON.

Northern, ex-holders of the Northumberland Cup, opened their Easter tour at Kingsholm in fine weather and before a fair attendance. The visitors, who engage Llanelly and Neath next week, were unable to play full strength, Whitley and A. Robson being prominent absentees. The City were also weakened forward, Russell, Foulkes, Rea and Ferris all being on the injured list.

Teams :

### GLOUCESTER.

BACK : G. Thomas.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. R. Crowther, J. Stephens, R. James, and L. Abbey.

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

FORWARDS : M. Short, L. E. Saxby, L. Wadley, H. Pitt, E. Comley, G. R. Shaw, J. Hatton, and J. Hemming.

### NORTHERN.

BACK : D. R. Pickard.

THREE-QUARTERS : W. Alexander, W. J. S. Murray, L. B. Ward, and T. Yeomans.

HALF-BACKS : E. Lascelles and T. Carr.

FORWARDS : T. C. Sanderson, R. L. Clark, G. Morpeth, L. H. Spicer, A. F. Rutter, H. C. Clapham, K. Scott, and H. Wardale.

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis.

## THE GAME.

The ground was in perfect condition for a fast game, and early on the Northern backs were set in motion by Lascelles. Yeomans, the left centre, cut through beautifully and worked out a nice opening, but his pass out to Alexander was not accepted. Good kicking and a breakaway by Pitt brought relief to Gloucester, and Pickard was called upon, but he found touch well.

The City rushed back, but a loose kick was cleverly gathered by Thomas, who eluded a couple of forwards and found touch with a capital kick. Gloucester went close after this, and Millington, snapping up the ball, went through nicely, but his transfer to James went astray with a good opening. A penalty to Northern saw Alexander punt out to James, who replied to Ward. The latter beat several players easily and gained 30 yards with a fine kick.

Play was somewhat scrambling until Stephens picked up and dashed through, but again the transfer was faulty and was captured by an opponent. The visitors were doing better than Gloucester behind, but a possible opening was lost through a knock-on.

Heeling well, Lascelles got the ball away smartly, and Ward kicked well down to Thomas. The City custodian gathered and cross-kicked, but the ball was taken by Yeomans, and a couple of transfers saw ALEXANDER in possession. The International was about at half-way when he accepted, and putting on full pace rounded the opposition and raced round behind the posts for a fine try. The place-kick, an easy one, failed.

Gloucester re-started, and the forwards at once made tracks for the visitors' goal by the aid of loose rushes. Northern defended well, but Hemming gaining possession ran strongly, and handing at the right moment to ABBEY. The latter dashed over and scored in a favourable position. Millington landed a goal, and Gloucester led by two points.

The City showed better form on the restart, the forwards playing a dashing game in the loose. From a pass by Milliner, Millington set James on the move, and the centre ran well with Stephens and Crowther on his left. When just about to pass, however, he was collared from behind, and his transfer went wide. In a loose rush the ball was taken over the line and HEMMING credited with a try. Millington added the goal points.

Northern worked beyond the half-way, where Short brought off a strong burst. Then from a scrum Milliner opened out, and the ball went along the third line to Crowther. The latter ran and cross-kicked to the centre, where COMLEY came up and gathering went over near the posts for Millington again to convert.

Play was fast and open on the resumption. Gloucester missed a splendid chance after passing and a fine run by James, owing to a bad transfer by Stephens to his wing. Northern replied immediately, Ward bringing off a fine run. He beat Thomas with a fine swerve, but being pressed he let the ball go to a colleague, who was pulled down at once. Gloucester heeled from several scrums and there was some neat handling, but Abbey was well tackled by Pickard. The ball, however, getting loose, Millington secured, and throwing out a wide pass to CROWTHER, the latter scored easily. The place-kick by Millington failed.

Though fifteen points down, Northern re-started with great keenness. Gloucester handled smartly up to a point, but Murray intercepted and handed to ALEXANDER. The wing man punted over Thomas's head and raced for possession. He got to the line where he was impeded, and the referee awarded a penalty try. No goal resulted.

There was no slackening of the pace on the re-start, both sides giving the ball plenty of air. Alexander was again distinguished with a good run, but this time Thomas effected a good tackle. Gloucester came back with a passing run, Stephens and Crowther shining, but the defence held out.

The City, however, soon added to their score, Milliner and MILLINGTON tricking the defence from a scrum five yards out, and giving the latter a simple try behind the posts which he converted.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER ..... 4 goals 1 try  
NORTHERN ..... 2 tries

Gloucester restarted, but the ball failing to go ten yards a scrum followed at the centre. Here Milliner broke away with a run and kick, which found touch in the visitors' 25. An attack initiated from the scrum broke down, but directly after a series of sharp transfers gave CROWTHER a chance which he accepted, hitting off the full back and getting the ball down, though tackled by Alexander. Millington failed with the goal-kick.

Immediately after the resumption the Gloucester backs were well served, but Stephens sent a bad pass to Crowther. The ball rolled away and Murray kicked ahead and over the line, but Hemming got back and touched down.

Gloucester continued to heel, and the backs were off again. Stephens this time cut clean through and beat the full back, but was overhauled and partly tackled. He managed to get the ball away to Crowther, but the latter knocked on with an open line. From this point play went to the other wing, where Milliner got a nice pass to Abbey. After a sharp dash the right wing cross-kicked, but nothing resulted. Stephens, however, just missed dropping a goal with a splendid kick. Subsequent play was fairly even, but there were mistakes on both sides. Two penalties fell to Northern, but they did not gain them much ground, and operations were contested at the centre.

Abbey distinguished himself with a dashing effort on the right, but Gloucester failed to take advantage. From some interpassing by the City backs Murray intercepted, and feeding ALEXANDER, the International sprinted half the length of the field to score behind the posts. The easy place-kick was a failure.

The game lacked the standard displayed in the first half, and again when the home backs were in possession faulty handling lost ground. Another movement initiated by Millington broke down owing to the pass going wrong. Later Stephens brought off a strong run, and Saxby, who received, made a gallant effort to cross, but he was pulled down.

Gloucester pressed severely now, and Milliner just failed to get through. A sharp rush by the Northern forwards brought relief, but the City worked back, and clever passing sent Crowther over, but he stepped over the in-goal line and the try was disallowed.

Gloucester attacked strenuously after this, Abbey making a couple of good attempts to get through, whilst James made a fruitless drop at goal with Stephens and Crowther well placed to score.

Scrappy play followed ending in Northern shifting operations to the centre, where the forwards were mainly engaged. Millington opening out, Stephens went ahead and fed Crowther, who tried hard to get away from Alexander, but after a sharp race for 30 yards he was caught and hurled to touch.

Gloucester in the last few minutes worked hard to score again, but Northern kept their lines intact. Eventually Stephens shone in a side-stepping run which took him very close. He let the ball go, and in a scramble WADLEY picked up and scored. Millington converted with a lovely kick. Before the end Gloucester should have scored again, but Crowther dropped his pass.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ... 5 goals, 2 tries (31 pts.)  
NORTHERN ..... 3 tries (9 pts.)