

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1920

FOOTBALL

ANOTHER FINE WIN FOR GLOUCESTER

MOSELEY OUTCLASSED

For the match with Moseley at Kingsholm to-day, Gloucester fielded a weakened side, the absentees including G. Holford and S. Smart (engaged in the International match at Swansea), and Fred Webb and Lionel Hamblin both on the injured list.

A. Hall again deputised at outside half for the vice-captain, and at right wing three-quarter S. A. Brown, who had been kept out of the teams since the Swansea match last October, returned to the side – a welcome reappearance, for he had shaped so promisingly prior to his unfortunate accident.

This was the only meeting of the team this season, the first fixture at Moseley being scratched owing to the snow.

Though still a useful side the Midland club are not the formidable combination they were in the days of the Brothers J. F. and Frank Byrne, Rogers, Cattell, and other notable players, and on form to-day's match was voted a good thing for the City.

GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Welshman.

THREE-QUARTER BACKS : W. Washbourn, A. Hudson, T. Millington, and S. Brown.

HALF-BACKS : W. Dix and A. Hall.

FORWARDS : T. Voyce, F. Ayliffe, J. F. Lawson, A. Ward, J. Harris, J. H. Webb, N. Hayes, and C. Mumford.

MOSELEY

BACK : J. G. Bell.

THREE-QUARTER BACKS : H. J. Thomas, R. A. Lynex, C. T. Walker, and R. O. Lunt.

HALF-BACKS : E. Foster and C. C. Braund.

FORWARDS : J. Hubbard, W. H. K. Copeland, W. E. Howard, F. C. Morris, R. W. Price, J. Cooper, A. G. Watson, and F. B. Jeffries.

Referee : Mr. G. Hancock (Bristol).

THE GAME

Gloucester set the ball in motion, but the visitors from a scrum quickly initiated a loose rush which carried them to the Gloucester 25, where Webb first of all checked them, and then Welshman sent them back with a good touch-finder.

The venue changed to the Moseley 25, where the home forwards, heeling well, gave their half a chance to feed the threes, who, however, muddled the pass. A similar mis-handling by the home threes followed, but a dangerous loose rush was only stopped by the visitors conceding a minor. The homesters continued to attack, and Moseley found it necessary again to touch down.

Bell found touch well with the kick out, but the Gloucester team went away again, and a knock-on spoiled a certain try.

The Gloucester pack were getting the ball out beautifully every time, and Hall initiated a fine bout of handling, which sent the ball travelling to the left wing, and Washbourn went over in the corner with Gloucester's first try. Welshman failed with the kick.

The men from Birmingham now put in a promising rush, which carried them to the home line, where Welshman had plenty of time to touch down.

The game was located inside Gloucester territory for a few minutes, but with good touch-finding the homesters again carried play to the visitors' 25, where exciting play ended in a spectacular try by Hudson, who, receiving the ball after a useful movement by Dix, eluded several opponents, and, running round, planted the ball between the posts. Welshman had no difficulty in adding the points.

Moseley now made an incursion into the Gloucester 25, but the defence was too sure, Voyce showing up well in several good tackles. Dix delighted the crowd with a smart movement, in which he robbed the Moseley half of the ball after one of those occasions on which the Birmingham forwards managed to get the leather out, and a moment later he again smartly set the threes in motion after some clever head work.

Periodically the visitors rushed up the field, and one of their movements should have borne fruit, but Lunt missed a pass from Thomas when he had a fine chance of opening his side's account. Foster then made a grand but unsuccessful attempt to drop a goal.

Moseley were now making desperate efforts to score, but without success. Securing just outside his own 25 Washbourn put in a fine run, and only had Bell to beat, but the latter effected a fine tackle, notwithstanding which Washbourn managed to pass to Millington, who was pulled up by the referee for some obscure reason. Moseley were attacking at half-time.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
GLOUCESTER 1 goal, 1 try
MOSELEY Nil

On the resumption Moseley brought off another rush to the Gloucester 25, but the homesters were not long in clearing. A penalty to the visitors, the result of Dix failing to put the ball in straight, was not of much use to Moseley, who found themselves again hard pressed.

A nice movement by their threes, spoilt by a useful interception by Brown, eased the pressure, and again they got the ball out but could not hold it.

The home threes on the contrary got going on several occasions on one of which Hudson, closely attended by Washbourn, rushed up the line and a score looked certain, but Washbourn failed to take the ball at the critical moment and it went to touch. Good forward work took Moseley into the Gloucester field, but their advantage was short-lived, and another goal came to Gloucester as the result of a splendid service by Dix, and faultless manipulation of the ball by the home threes, Washbourn again going over in the corner. Welshman's kick was a superb effort.

A moment later a similar movement was spoilt by a knock-on, and Hudson by the commission of a similar mistake lost another opening. Several scrums in dangerous proximity to the Moseley line saw Braund penalised for off-side play, but Welshman's attempt to goal was unsuccessful. Another penalty for legs up met with similar treatment but Gloucester continued their pressure and confined play to the Moseley half, Welshman, by splendid touch-finding, assisting materially.

By excellent forward work Moseley again succeeded in penetrating to the home 25, but Millington punted to touch and the venue quickly changed. In the course of open play on the left wing the oval came to Millington, who gave the dummy to his opponents and scored nicely. Welshman failed with the kick.

Another try came as the result of a fine bout of passing, in which Hudson, Millington and Brown figured, for the last to score in the corner. Dix figures in the next score, making a clever run and passing to Voyce, who gave to Washbourn, the Gloucester left wing kicking forward and touching down. The necessary goal points were not forthcoming. Gloucester were now getting all the play and Moseley were quite unable to prevent the score mounting up. Hudson was next in the picture with a pretty run which he ended with a try too far out for Welshman to goal.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ... 2 goals, 5 tries (25 pts.)
MOSELEY Nil

REMARKS

Despite their weakened team Gloucester had matters all their own way, and entirely outclassed the visitors in all departments. It was only in the forward line that Moseley had any talent for it is due to Copeland and Jeffries to say that they played extremely well.

The visiting halves were quite unable to do anything effective in face of the clever play of Dix and Hall, and their three's, even when provided with the ball were entirely at sea. Bell was not bad, but he was not a patch on Welshman, who again played a first-class game, his touch-finding being superb.

The home pack heeled well, and in the loose they were all over the opposition, Voyce and Hayes being noticeable for good work. Dix did not fail to take full advantage of the superiority of his pack, and was enabled to open up the game in a very satisfactory manner. There was little to choose between the Gloucester three's, who carried out some fine handling movements; not, however, without some faults which might have proved serious in face of a stronger team.

JC