

THE CITIZEN

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1920

EASTER MONDAY FOOTBALL

CROSS KEYS LUCKY TO DRAW AT KINGSHOLM

A big holiday crowd witnessed the return match between Gloucester and Cross Keys, the powerful Monmouth Valley team, which only a few days previously had played a pointless draw with Newport.

The visitors turned out full strength with the exception of Owen at full back, whilst Gloucester relied on the same fifteen which did duty at Newport on Saturday.

The game ended in a draw of two tries each, but the result was highly flattering to Cross Keys, who were a well-beaten side in actual play.

Gloucester opened brilliantly, the forwards heeling well and the backs doing excellent work. The opening try came after five minutes, Dix sending out a sharp service to Humphries, who fed F. Webb, for the wing man to dash through and over the line in grand style. Welshman missed the goal points.

The City continued to monopolise the game, and Sid Brown put in two fine runs on the left wing. In the first instance he punted past the full back, but was obstructed and could not get up in time to gain the touch. In the second case he was well tackled on the 25 line.

A lovely dribble by Dix nearly brought about a score, and Cross Keys were very fortunate in keeping their line intact on several occasions.

Gloucester's second point was the outcome of one of the finest forward movements seen on the ground for a long time. Breaking away from the scrum the City players kept a perfect control over the ball, and the Welshmen's defence was beaten by clever cross-dribbling. The ball was eventually kicked across to the right wing, where Millington sent it over the line, and Fred Webb put the finishing touch on a magnificent effort by scoring a try. The place-kick failed.

Clever work by Humphries on the resumption kept Cross Keys busily defending, but long kicking brought the Welshmen relief, and for the first time, after half an hour's play, they reached the home half. They were not long in scoring. Winmill, unmarked in a line-out, secured the ball and, shaking off a would-be tackler, crossed with a try, which went unconverted.

The visitors equalised the points shortly afterwards. There was some fumbling on the part of the home players, and a Cross Keys man picking up threw to Lyons, who scored easily.

The second half did not provide such interesting football, but play went in favour of Gloucester. Cross Keys made a few visits to the City end, but they were of brief duration. The Gloucester forwards continued to control the scrums, and all round made a fine show against their hefty opponents, but scoring ability was lacking behind. The Welshmen infringed repeatedly, and were penalised many times, but Gloucester had not a goal-kicker equal to the occasion, though several of the positions were comparatively easy.

From a passing bout started well in side the Gloucester half, Webb made a grand attempt to notch the winning points. He side-stepped the full back beautifully, but lost a few yards in doing so, and was fetched down from behind. Webb, on being tackled, gave an inside pass to a forward who had followed up, but the ball went wide, and an effort which well deserved a score went unrewarded.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 tries (6 points)
Cross Keys 2 tries (6 points)

GLOUCESTER A WIN AT MONMOUTH

At Monmouth on Easter Monday. In the first half Burns and Thomas, the Gloucester half-backs, opened up the game well, and it was then that the visitors showed themselves to be the superior team. The first try was obtained by Ashmead, after Burns, Thomas, Mace and Bloxsome had handled the ball. Bloxsome converted. This was the score at the interval.

Soon after the restart, Bloxsome was pulled up right on the Monmouth line. Later Thomas received in some loose play from Bloxsome. Thomas kicked with judgment over the head of Richardson, the Monmouth custodian, and the ball went over the line. Thomas was the first to get to it, and scored a clever try in the corner, Smith failing to convert from a difficult angle.

The next to be nearly over for Gloucester was Merrett, a forward. He picked up smartly in the Monmouth 25, and coming right through had a chance of going over on his own. However, he parted with the ball to Bloxsome, who neatly took the pass and was well tackled right on the Monmouth line by Richardson, the home full back.

After this Gloucester fell away and Monmouth pressed. The Monmouth stand-off half, Jim Pembridge, received from the scrum half, Trevor Jones, and dropped a fine goal. A similar effort by the same player later on failed. Monmouth were pressing when the whistle blew.

RESULT :

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| Gloucester A | 1 goal, 1 try (8 points) |
| Monmouth | 1 goal (d) (4 points) |

Gloucester won because of determined attacks and good combination in the first half. A feature of the game was the fine work of the Gloucester custodian, Smith. Mace, Bloxsome, Ashmead and Daniell did well for Gloucester. Thomas and Burns were only just a match for the Monmouth halves, Jones and Pembridge.

Of the Gloucester forwards, Merrett worked hard. At one time he was taken from the pack to make an extra back. Gloucester's fine defence in the closing ten minutes of the game enabled them to maintain their four points' lead.

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