

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1920

FOOTBALL

WEAK CITY TEAM'S FINE DISPLAY

MOSELEY QUITE OUTCLASSED

After being absent from home five weeks in succession, Gloucester appeared at Kingsholm this afternoon, but it was only the skeleton of a First team that fielded against Moseley. Nine players (seven forwards and two backs) were at Bath with the County, necessitating a heavy call on the reserves. Moseley, though not in the first rank of clubs, are more than a useful combination, and some doubt existed as to the ability of the City to successfully engage the Midlanders, especially forward. The fact that Gloucester were at home, however, encouraged the City followers that the side would be able to pull through. The Gloucester team fielded as picked, but Moseley were without their regular back, E. C. Anderson, and brought with them three of their reserves.

GLOUCESTER

BACK : T. Burns.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. A. Brown, W. Washbourn (captain), D. J. Brown, and N. Daniell.

HALF-BACKS : W. Collins and A. Robbins (Bream).

FORWARDS : J. F. Lawson, J. H. Webb, C. Mumford, S. Bayliss, E. Richardson, A. Wright, and T. Taylor.

MOSELEY

BACK : J. Cooper.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. J. Rose, S. A. Vaughan, S. T. Walker, and E. Foster.

HALF-BACKS : J. E. H. Jackson and G. D. Rosser.

FORWARDS : A. Woodward, H. W. Hill, L. M. Abbott, A. G. Watson, G. B. Jeffries, W. E. Howard, F. G. Rogers, and R. D. Walker.

Referee : Mr. J. H. Baggage.

THE GAME

Gloucester kicked off, and a short return to touch let the home team into the visitors' territory, but a slovenly pass by Collins, which Robbins failed to gather, lost them the advantage. A forward dash led by Lawson carried Gloucester well up, a poor kick to touch being followed by a scrum in the Moseley quarter. From this Gloucester heeled, and the ball travelled well until it came to Washbourn, who overshot the mark and failed to gather.

Then Moseley attacked, and Burns, misjudging the rebound of the ball, was tackled before he could clear. Things looked dangerous, but Brown secured and put in a useful touchfinder. A fine bit of passing ending in Brown kicking to touch well down put the City in a good position, and from a scrum the threes again handled nicely, the ball coming to Daniell, who ran well and beat Cooper, scoring wide out. Burns failed with the kick.

Following this encouragement the home team played up strongly, Robbins being seen in a clever transfer which Brown was not quick enough to take advantage of. Gloucester were getting the ball out well, and there were several promising movements which, however, went astray. Sid Brown had a possible chance after a strong dash down the line, but he kicked when he might have done better by continuing his rush.

Gloucester were getting the ball out regularly, and the Moseley line was in constant danger, minor infringements preventing a couple of tries. Then another chance came to Brown, who made no mistake this time, and went over with a fine try. The position was not easy, and Burns again failed.

Yet another try came to Daniell, who received after a pretty passing display, and despite the attentions of two Moseley men fell over with a good try amidst cheers.

On resuming D. Brown was conspicuous with a fine tackle, and the city team again advanced to the attack. The ball came out nicely to Collins, who fed Robbins, the new stand-off half bursting through nicely and sending a sharp pass to Washbourn, who in turn transferred to Brown, the wing man finishing the effort by scoring finely. The place kick again failed.

The Midlanders were now entirely on the defensive, play being almost entirely confined to their quarter. Here Robbins essayed a drop for goal, a poor and ill-advised attempt, but a minute later he rectified his mistake by racing over and adding Gloucester's fifth try, after a transfer from D. Brown. Burns added the extra points.

On resuming, one of the Moseley men showed up well with a strong burst, but he had a long way to go, and thought to evade Burns and another by kicking forward, but his kick was too strong and he was well beaten in the race and a minor was conceded by the home team. Gloucester were still pressing strongly at the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
GLOUCESTER 1 goal, 4 tries
MOSELEY Nil

On the resumption Washbourn knocked on, and following the scrum one of the Moseley men made a mark. Kicking into the air they followed up strongly, and a dangerous melee took place on the line, but Moseley could not quite bring off a score, and Gloucester dribbled clear.

Then Robbins and Brown were conspicuous with a fine run down touch, Brown bringing off one of his popular swerves, but he lost ground in doing so and was surrounded. He made a mark a minute later, but Cooper made a good return and Moseley advanced to the attack. Burns was taken unawares, but the movement broke down just before reaching the Gloucester 25. The Midlanders did not long retain their advantage, and the City men were pressing strongly when a penalty was given against them. With this the visitors transferred play to midfield, Woodward being conspicuous in some bustling work.

Moseley were now getting more of the ball, and Foster put in a good run for them, dodging cleverly and sending his side well up with a fine touchfinder. Burns showed up well by gathering smartly and finding touch nicely, but the Moseley men were now using their feet to advantage, and several time invaded the home territory.

A noteworthy dribble by Lawson, who was using his feet well, was stopped by Walker, who picked up the ball from his feet and punted to touch. This did not suit Gloucester, and they returned to their first-half form, a couple of performances by the threes, after some clean heeling, ending in Washbourn putting in an excellent run and transferring to Sid Brown, who made light of the opposition and scored in a good position. Burns' kick went wide.

Then a possible chance came to the Midlanders, Walker making a strong burst which he might have carried through on his own, but he passed to Foster, who failed to gather, and the movement was lost. Gloucester worked up to midfield, and then the ball was nicely served up by Robbins and came to Sid Brown, who dodged and handed off several men, and then passed inside to Washbourn, for that player to add yet another try for the homesters. The place-kick again failed.

Moseley did not give up, but although they put plenty of dash into their play they were constantly infringing the rules. Then a rush along the touch-line, checked several times by the defenders, resulted in Wright coming through and falling on the ball in the corner. The effort was not improved upon.

There was no slackening of play on either side, but the Gloucester threes were not getting so many chances, the Midlanders putting a bit more hustle into their work, but they were still almost entirely on the defensive.

Cooper was doing quite well in a trying position, and several times saved smartly. Mansell showed up well in a smart run and transfer to Robbins, who handed to Washbourn, but the acting captain was pulled down.

A minute before the end the City threes again got going, the ball travelling freely along the line to Brown, who was quite brilliant and added yet another try. Burns again failed to add the extra points.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal 8 tries (29 pts.)

MOSELEY Nil

REMARKS

The game turned out to be quite a surprise for the City supporters, who expected that Moseley would be equal to giving the weakened City team a strong test. It was early evident, however, that they were no match for the home team, who advanced to the attack at the outset, and throughout the whole game were only placed on the defence a couple of times.

The home pack, expected to be the weak spot, played up remarkably well, heeling in a most creditable manner, and, led by the two first teamers, – Lawson and Webb – played in the loose with commendable determination. Collins worked the scrums quite well, and did some good work in the lines-out; but naturally attention centred more on the stand-off half, whose trial was keenly anticipated.

Robbins undoubtedly justified his inclusion in the team, playing a quick and clean game, which was responsible for a good deal of the heavy scoring. Besides his try, which was the result of a fine effort, he not only initiated several of the scoring movements but carried them along the road to fulfilment by taking what chances of cutting through presented themselves.

The whole of the Gloucester threes were in tip-top form. True, the Moseley defence was not of the strongest, and they had many opportunities, but nevertheless they played a ripping game. Washbourn, D. J. Brown and Daniell were all in the picture, the acting captain doing remarkably well, and Daniell scoring his two tries by dint of using his head and legs well.

Sid Brown was, however, the star performer, his four tries being all obtained after exhibitions of his very best style. Burns was quite out of luck with his shots for goal, but he put in some good touch-finders at times, and generally played a good game, although he was rather slow upon the ball on one or two occasions, which in the face of a better team might have proved serious.

There is little to be said of the Midlanders, who were thoroughly outclassed in all departments. Woodward was conspicuous amongst their forwards, and of their threes Foster and Walker were responsible for one or two bursts. Cooper played quite a good game at back, considering that his place was in the front line, but the whole side were badly beaten.

Next week : Gloucester v Swansea, at Kingsholm.

JC