

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1921

FOOTBALL

CITY'S FIRST DEFEAT FOR TEN WEEKS

GUY'S HOSPITAL TAKE REVENGE

GLOUCESTER FREELY PENALISED IN DISAPPOINTING GAME

Gloucester paid their second visit of the season to London to-day, when they met Guy's Hospital in the return fixture. At Kingsholm last November the City gained a splendid win over the students by 2 tries to a penalty goal, but the visitors recognised they had a very stiff task before them this afternoon.

Guy's have enjoyed a fine run of successes, and with their wealth of talent (including a number of South African players) are recognised as one of, if not the strongest team in the Metropolis.

Gloucester, unfortunately, were not able to place full strength in the field. Stanley Cook was not available, and J. Harris (injured in Thursday's county match) and J. H. Webb were also absent. The vacancy forward was filled by that sound player C. Mumford, and Frank Mansell made the journey as reserve. The third line was fixed up by Fred Webb playing centre to Daniell, the other wing being composed of Millington and Sid Browne.

The team and one or two officials travelled up by the 7.30 train for the purpose of placing a wreath from the Club on the Cenotaph in affectionate remembrance of Gloucester players killed in the war.

GLOUCESTER

BACK : C. Cook.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. Brown, T. Millington, F. Webb (captain), and N. Daniell.

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

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe, T. Voyce, G. Holford, A. Hall, S. Smart, Mumford, J. F. Lawson, and W. F. Warde.

GUY'S HOSPITAL

BACK : W. Olivier.

THREE-QUARTERS : C. L. Steyn, Graham Davies, J. A. Krige, and W. Daneel.

HALF-BACKS : F. Bekker and J. G. van Schalkwijk.

FORWARDS : W. D. Doherty (capt.), F. W. Reitz, A. H. van Zyl, A. Marias, A. H. Shelswell, R. F. Duncan, E. Nesar, and W. Taylor.

Referee : Mr. H. Cotter (London Society of Referees).

THE GAME

The weather was dull, but the ground was in capital condition, and the attendance numbered about 2,000. Ayliffe failed to send the ball ten yards with the kick-off, and a scrum followed at the centre. Gloucester were at once penalised for Dix not putting the ball in straight, and with Cook knocking on, Guy's early gained a footing in the City 25. By the aid of another free the Hospital confined operations to this quarter, until a short rush by the visiting front brought play out to the centre. Guy's kicked back, and then from a line-out Shellswell broke clear and started passing, Reitz nearly scoring. From a scrum close in Dix was again penalised, and from the easy position in front of goal Schalkwijk landed an easy goal.

Gloucester restarted, but the City had not found their game yet, and the referee was ardently against them, for Dix came under his ban again. The resultant kick sent play to the Gloucester half, where the home forwards shone in a good rush.

Gloucester cleared through smart work by Millington and Webb, but Robbins fumbling allowed Guy's to get back, and only a forward transfer prevented a try being scored. The City continued to play disappointingly, and could not seem to make any headway. Well-judged kicking by Bekker gave Guy's the advantage, and Smart getting a kick charged down Gloucester were placed in danger. Robbins partially retrieved the situation, but the ball got loose, and after a series of short passes Krige scored a corner try. The goal kick failed.

Following the resumption Guy's had all the better of the game, and Gloucester were forced to defend. Another penalty followed against Gloucester, and Schalkwijk dropped a lovely goal, giving the Hospital a nine points' lead.

After this further reverse the City played up better, and a few excited supporters present raised ironical cheers when the referee gave Gloucester their first penalty. For the first time the City reached their opponents' half, but another free awarded to Guy's quickly enabled them to get back. Scrambling play ensued, ending in Krige picking up, and after a strong run put Davies over with a good try behind the posts. The goal kick failed.

With 14 points against them Gloucester seemed to realise what they were up against, and the forwards bustled into their work in something like form. From a long kick down Sid Brown ran round and passed to Millington, who sent to Webb. The captain dashed through well, and transferred inside. After more passing Millington was nearly over. For off-side Guy's were penalised and Robins credited Gloucester with three points, the result of a lovely goal.

Encouraged by this score, Gloucester attacked resolutely, and there was another pretty round of passing by the backs, but nothing definite resulted. Gloucester attacked to the interval, but could not beat the defence.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

GUY'S 3 goals (2p), 1 try (14 pts.)

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (p) (3 pts.)

The Gloucester play in the first half was considerably upset by the referee, and the players appeared afraid to do anything for fear of offending the official. Immediately after the re-start the City were penalised again, but Schalkwijk this time failed with the drop at goal, though the shot was a good one.

Resuming, Guy's were prominent with a passing run, but Steyn's cross-kick was captured by Webb, who yielded to Daniell. The latter sprinted across, but a home player dropped back and sprinted nicely to touch. Some stirring forward work followed, but play was very scrappy. Gloucester forced a minor with a kick over the line, but on the resumption Guy's showed up with good passing until the ball reached Steyn, who fumbled.

Gloucester rushed well out, but the ground gained was recovered by clever kicking by the Hospital backs. The City, however, persevered, and following a kick through the ball went to Steyn, who mis-kicked. Webb dashed up, and securing possession in the corner scored a nice try, which Robbins converted with a grand kick from near the touch line. The score was now fourteen points to eight against Gloucester.

Gloucester were playing better now, and Robbins, receiving from Dix, sprinted finely to touch in Guy's 25, but the visitors lost their position through off-side, Bekker finding touch with a nice kick. The forwards were vigorously engaged after this, and the contest was more like a Hospital tie than a friendly one. Although the whole of the forwards were down in a heap on the ground after a heavy maul, the referee penalised Gloucester for some infringement, and the visitors had to concede a minor. On the drop-out Dix served Daniell on the right, and the latter sprinted hard, only to see the ball go over the dead ball line.

The general play was mostly forward after this and the tackling of a ferocious character. Guy's at length tried to open out, but Gloucester smothered the passing, and little ground was gained.

Then there was more vigorous forward work, ending, as usual, in Gloucester being penalised, though with players on both sides all mixed up it was impossible to see what infringement there was.

And so the game continued, with little that was of real interest to record. At length Dix got the ball away cleverly to Robbins, who cut straight through, but was collared from behind when looking dangerous. Krige secured and sprinted well to touch at the centre.

Only five minutes now remained, but it looked hopeless for Gloucester being able to secure the game. The forwards continued to monopolise the play, and there was really little of interest to spectators. Just before the end Gloucester broke away with a loose rush, but Olivier checked.

RESULT :

GUY'S 3 goals (2p), 1 try (14 points)
GLOUCESTER 2 goals (1p) (8 points)

REMARKS

The game was a huge disappointment from the Gloucester point of view. Apart from the defeat, the referee was up against the visitors from the first scrum, and the City could not seem to do anything right to his satisfaction. Penalties were dealt out when no one else seemed to know what it was for.

The result can easily be understood. Gloucester were put completely off their game, and they never really approached their true form. The forwards were worried by the vigorous tackling of the Hospital men, and they did little in the way of heeling. Consequently the Gloucester backs were seldom in the picture as regards attacking movements. Dix was kept in check by the referee, and there was no doubt he was upset altogether by the official's activities.

The Guy's backs on the whole were faster and kicked better, but the City made the best of what chances they had. On the whole the game was keenly disappointing.

GLOUCESTER RESERVES' BIGGEST SCORE

SOUTH END 36 POINTS' DEFEAT

Gloucester A were at home to South End this afternoon, but as their opponents had not been keeping together well this season they did not anticipate much difficulty in securing a win.

Teams : –

Gloucester A. – F. Ashmeade; W. Washbourn, F. Bloxsome, T. Burns, and H. Ashmeade; W. Collins and R. Cook; A. Wright, S. Bayliss, F. Richardson, T. Taylor, T. Bridges, E. Curtis, J. Webb, and J. Hawker.

South End. – G. Smith; E. May, E. Miller, F. Hodges, and A. Lusty; T. Turner and A. Bettridge; W. Jennings (capt.), P. Wyburn, H. Lane, A. Clift, G. Lewis, S. Gough, P. James, and D. Collins.

Referee : Mr. J. H. Babbage.

South End kicked off, but Gloucester immediately set up an attack and pressed on until the threes securing in the loose, Ashmeade romped over in the corner, Burns failing with the kick.

South End put up a plucky defence, and resisting further scoring worked to mid-field, but they were again penned in their 25, and after clean heeling the home threes handled, Ashmeade, after a creditable swerve, scoring wide out. Burns again missed the goal points.

South End now got going, and their scrum half executed a pretty dribble which carried his side well up, and a forward rush forced Gloucester to touch down. Twas but a flash in the pan, however, and Gloucester came away again, and the visitors only gained relief by conceding a minor.

George Smith, the former City full back, was doing his utmost in face of great difficulties, his kicking and tackling being very helpful. Burns added the next try after a smart bout of passing, but he failed to improve his effort.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 3 tries
South End Nil

It was not long after the resumption that Gloucester again scored, a try coming to Ashmeade as the result of a fine combined movement by the Gloucester threes, Burns making the opening. The necessary goal points were added by Burns.

Time after time the Gloucester forwards put in good rushes, and the threes handled, but for some time South End kept them out.

The home backs, however, persevered, and Washbourn, after a couple of attempts, scored in the corner. F. Ashmeade tried the kick without success. South End now pressed to the Gloucester 25, but only succeeded in forcing a minor.

Changing the venue with passing movements, from one of which Washbourne narrowly failed, Gloucester again scored through Ashmeade, forwards, halves, and threes all contributing to the effort. F. Ashmeade goaled.

South End were still playing keenly, but their line was again penetrated, Hawker scoring an unconverted try. Bridges was the next scorer, his try coming after a clever try by Collins. After trying hard for a score Collins was successful in touching down after a strenuous effort. Curtis was the next scorer, Burns goaling.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 3 goals, 7 tries (36 points)
South End Nil

REMARKS

Although South End put up a plucky fight they entirely lacked combination, and failed to extend the Reserves. Turner and Smith were their best men.

All the Gloucester men did well, Ashmeade, Collins, Bridges and J. Webb being the outstanding players. Washbourn tried hard, but was pursued by bad luck. This is the Reserves' heaviest score this season.

JC