

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1931

GLOUCESTER 12 POINTS, LEICESTER 6 POINTS

"TIGERS' " RECORD LEFT AT KINGSHOLM

CITY'S GREAT SECOND HALF RECOVERY

JAMES' SUCCESS AT OUTSIDE-HALF

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Leicester appeared at Kingsholm with a record of six games won and an aggregate of 54 pts. without a point registered against them. Gloucester had great hopes of checking the "Tigers'" victorious career this afternoon.

Wadley, who damaged his shoulder at Bristol last week, was absent from the home ranks with Meadows, still unfit, and Leicester also had two players away – Greenlees and Saunders – injured on Thursday in the Leicestershire-Warwick match. Otherwise the teams were at full strength. Odbert, the former R.A.F. and Irish International Trial reserve of two seasons ago, took the vacant position at stand-off half in the visitors' ranks.

Perfect weather conditions favoured the game, and there was a good crowd to welcome the unbeaten "Tigers."

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : Roy James, M. A. McCanlis, R. L. Baker, and R. N. Loveridge.

HALF-BACKS : H. Applin and A. E. Brookes.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby (capt.), A. Carpenter, E. Comley, F. Merrett, J. Hemming, A. Welshman, L. Franklin, and Dr. Steele-Perkins.

LEICESTER.

BACK : R. J. Barr.

THREE-QUARTERS : J. T. Hardwick, P. E. Coote, D. H. Herbert, and E. M. Barlow.

HALF-BACKS : R. V. Odbert and B. C. Gadney.

FORWARDS : D. J. Norman, G. R. Beamish, G. P. C. Vallance, M. G. Christie, R. A. L. Wiener, A. H. Greenwood, H. A. Constantine, and A. P. Hughes.

Referee : Dr. Glyn Hughes (London).

THE GAME

The attendance was about 4,000 when Leicester started off with the sun in their faces. The visitors early broke away with a dribble, but the movement was checked, and a big punt sent to touch at midfield. Gloucester opened out from a scrum, and Brookes short punting, ran and gathered the ball on the bounce. There appeared to be a fine opening, but the pass was not accepted.

FAST, OPEN PLAY

Good work by the Gloucester forwards, Steele-Perkins leading, caused Leicester trouble, but a penalty for feet up robbed the City of a good position, Barr finding touch with a fine kick. Fast, open play followed, the Leicester backs showing good passing, but James tackled well. Hemming dribbled well for twenty yards, but Gadney got back and saved in good style. Working well together the City forwards again got going, but later a pass went astray from Applin, and the visitors benefited.

LEICESTER OPEN THE SCORING

Clever line-out work by Welshman set the home backs moving, but nothing resulted, and Leicester, aided by a fine punt to touch by Barr, assumed the aggressive.

From a pass by Gadney, Odbert broke through beautifully and passed to Herbert, who was well tackled just outside. He, however, let the ball go, and GADNEY picking up burst over the line with the first try near the posts. Norman missed the easy place-kick, but Leicester were three points up.

Resuming, there was a spell of even play at the centre, with Leicester showing the more enterprise. The handling of the backs, however, was uncertain, and little ground was gained.

Gloucester once got on the move with a promising rush, but Leicester were the better team and did most of the attacking. McCanlis had to run back to field a kick, which he did successfully, getting in a good return to the centre.

LEICESTER AGAIN DANGEROUS

James put Gloucester well down with a well-judged touch-finder, but Leicester returned with clever combination. An inside pass from Odbert to Coote saw the centre run strongly, only falling to a fine tackle by Broughton within striking distance of the line.

Gloucester cleared by the aid of a drop out, and Broughton further improved with a splendid 30 yards punt which found its mark.

The City, however, were not equal to their opponents in general tactics. Welshman throwing out to the backs from a line out, McCanlis dashed ahead and punted, Barr sending back to Loveridge who fielded, but was given in touch.

From a penalty, Boughton had a shot for goal ten yards from the half-way line, but sent wide.

Leicester came away with a passing bout, the backs handling cleverly, but McCanlis and then Loveridge tackled beautifully.

VISITORS ADD TO THEIR LEAD

Gloucester secured an attacking position and Brookes, receiving from Applin, tried a burst through, but was tackled and lost the ball.

Odbert, who was near, gathered and passed to Coote, who handed on to HARDWICK. The wing man shook off a tackle by McCanlis, and running hard for the line scored a good try. The place was again an easy one, but Barr missed the goal points.

So far Gloucester had been clearly out of it in point of finished play, and Leicester well deserved their lead. The City forwards taking matters into their own hands, rushed well, and some heavy exchanges followed. Gloucester made further headway, and the backs had a possible chance, but the passing broke down. There was another attempt on the right, ending in McCanlis punting to touch.

A GREAT TRY

A little later Gloucester opened their account as the result of a brilliant movement – easily the best seen on the part of the City.

It originated from the scrum, but it was McCanlis who brought about the opening with a brilliant run to the full-back. LOVERIDGE was close in attendance and accepting a nice pass, he ran hard for the corner, and though tackled got the ball down safely. Boughton kicked a grand goal, and Gloucester were only a point behind.

HALF-TIME :

LEICESTER	2 tries
GLOUCESTER	1 goal

CITY BACKS RE-ARRANGED

The football had been interesting throughout, but it was not until the last five minutes that the City had come into their own, and Loveridge's fine try was the reward.

When the game was restarted it was noticed that the Gloucester back division had been re-arranged. James went up to outside half, Brookes played centre, and Baker went on the wing.

Gloucester went off with a bang on the resumption, and attacked with great determination. Splendid kicking by Boughton gave the City the advantage, and McCanlis, with another great run, was nearly through. The International was pulled down from behind ten yards outside, and though he passed out Loveridge could not do anything. The City forwards, carrying the scrums, went bodily for the line, and the Leicester defence had a strenuous time.

GLOUCESTER SECURE THE LEAD

Gloucester would not be denied, and Applin, getting the ball from the scrum, passed to James, who manoeuvred for position and dropped a lovely goal amidst tremendous enthusiasm. These four points gave the City a three-points lead, and their form since the resumption deserved it.

DETERMINED ATTACK THWARTED

Leicester put on pressure on the restart and gained a position in the home half, where there was a determined attack on the left. James and Baker checked, and Gloucester recovered through a smart effort by Brookes. Boughton won in an exchange of kicks with Barr, and later made a splendid attempt to land a penalty goal from the touch line.

Leicester were not doing too well just now, the forwards being kept well in hand. Gloucester again took up a strong position, but the defence could not be penetrated. With super efforts the visitors reached midfield, and opening out they tried hard to effect a score. Odbert worked the short side of the scrum cleverly, but Hardwick knocked on once when there was an apparent chance of scoring. It was hard going forward, with Leicester improved again.

Applin twice tackled Gadney in possession, but Franklin got off-side and gave away a penalty. Barr had a long shot for goal, but though the direction was good it fell short and Boughton returned to touch.

In their own 25 the Gloucester half-backs started passing, and McCanlis, cutting through brilliantly, was away to the full-back. He had some distance to go and essayed a punt ahead. He was upset and could not follow up, but Brookes ran hard, and Barr was lucky in saving.

A Leicester man later carried over, and a five yards scrum followed. Franklin was nearly through, being held up on the line, and Leicester escaped.

BOUGHTON'S FINE PENALTY GOAL

Leicester worked out of immediate danger, but the visitors were overpowered, and forced back on the defensive. Barr was lucky in getting out of a dangerous position from a punt ahead by Brookes. For not playing the ball Barr was penalised, and BOUGHTON landed a fine goal, making the score 12-6 in Gloucester's favour.

The game continued to favour Gloucester, who made another dashing . . .

[The remainder of the report, of unknown length, is unavailable, having been removed from the original version and replaced with unrelated copy; subsequently continuing with the latter part of W.B.'s summation]

GADNEY HELD AT HALF-BACK

Gadney has earned a big reputation as a scrum worker, but the Leicester player was well held by Applin to-day. The latter marked his opponent with great effect and more than once smothered the pass out. Applin's all-round display was highly meritorious, and I was pleased to see an improvement in his service.

Leicester would probably have preferred Greenlees to Odbert as pivot, but whilst fully recognising the ability of the Scottish International, the R.A.F. was one of the big successes for the visitors. In the first half especially Odbert was a real danger in attack, and his strong bursts were often a menace to the Gloucester line. And his deputy at centre, Coote, was another of Leicester's best men. Coote is a member of the Air Force, and was a candidate for an Irish cap last season until an injury kept him out of the field for a long time. He ran with great determination, and took a lot of pulling down. The Leicester backs showed clever combination and speed in the first half, but their chances later were few and far between.

GLOUCESTER'S BEST WORK

All the best combined work for Gloucester came after the change of ends, though the players gave a glimpse of what was coming just before the interval. That try of Loveridge's was as good a score as one could wish to see. The opening was made by McCanlis, and in this effort the International flashed through the defence in brilliant style, and made the try practically certain. Loveridge, however, deserves full credit for his part in the try; the slightest hesitation and the wing man would have failed to reach the line.

McCanlis nearly repeated his success in the second-half, and in these special movements he was the class player. The Gloucester backs accomplished a lot of good tackling – Baker shone in this department – but there were times when a "waiting attitude" allowed opponents to slip away rather easily.

GREAT BATTLE FORWARD

It was a titanic struggle forward, with Gloucester having a bit the better of the exchanges, taking the game throughout. In the scrums honours were fairly even, but the City showed more adaptability in the loose, with Hemming, Saxby, and Steele-Perkins ever prominent.

Welshman again did splendidly in the line-outs, and the rest of the pack worked with great vigour. Beamish, Norman, Vallance, and Constantine formed a strong quartette for Leicester, who, after being outplayed for 30 minutes, finished strongly.

Boughton was at his best this afternoon, fielding perfectly and kicking with fine judgment. His two goals were splendid efforts. Barr, on the other side, too, gave a capital display, and is a full back of great promise.

Next week : Gloucester v. Cardiff, at Cardiff; Gloucester United v. Cardiff Athletic, at Kingsholm.

JC