

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1931

GLOUCESTER NIL ; CARDIFF 17 POINTS

CITY FADE AWAY AFTER INTERVAL

SCORING CHANCES THAT WERE LOST

WELSHMEN'S RELENTLESS PRESSURE

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Last season Gloucester gained their first "double" victory over Cardiff for 40 years. At Kingsholm the City won by 4 goals (1d) (17 pts.) to 2 goals (10 pts.), and at Cardiff by 2 tries (6 pts.), to 1 dropped goal (4 pts.) – their second successive triumph at the Arms Park.

Gloucester had hoped to field the same team this afternoon that captured Leicester's record last week, but A. E. Brookes, who took part in two trial games at Oxford this week, damaged his shoulder in the second match, and had to cry off. This let in L. Abbey on the wing, R. L. Baker returning to centre. Abbey was in the victorious team on the same ground last season.

## CARDIFF CHANGES

The Cardiff team had not given satisfaction in the majority of matches, and several changes were made to-day. The most important was at scrum-half, where the captain (Howard Poole) declared himself unfit, and gave way to Maurice Turnbull, who played his first game for several years when he assisted Cardiff Athletic last week. Turnbull, like his brothers, was at Cambridge, but an injury to the knee put him out of the running for his Blue, and he gave up the game for a long time.

The Welsh club were very strong behind the scrummage, with three Internationals in the ranks, but the forwards were an uncertain quantity, and it was here Gloucester were expected to assert superiority, but whether to the extent of dominating the play remained to be seen.

THE TEAMS : –

#### GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

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

HALF-BACKS : H. Applin and G. R. James.

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

#### CARDIFF

BACK : T. Stone.

THREE-QUARTERS : C. Croff, B. Turnbull, Graham-Jones, A. Thomas.

HALF-BACKS : M. J. Turnbull and H. M. Bowcott.

FORWARDS : A. Skym, D. Westacott, Colin Ross, R. Barrell, V. R. Osmond, I. Isaacs, L. Spence, and Flynn.

Referee : Mr. J. Thomas (Welsh Union).

There were two late changes in the home team, Cyril Croff taking the place of John Roberts, the Cambridge Blue and Welsh International. Flynn took the place of James forward.

The weather and ground conditions were in favour of fast and open football. The attendance was 5,000 when Cardiff kicked off.

#### SMART ATTACKS

Saxby attempted to make a mark but missed, and a home forward rushed a dozen yards before being checked. From the first scrum Applin broke away and fed Abbey, who punted across, Stone being upset directly he gathered the ball. The Gloucester forwards heeling well, the City set up some smart attacks.

Once McCanlis kicked ahead, Stone knocking on in trying to field. Carrying the scrum the Gloucester forwards dribbled through in fine style, and over the line. Stone conceded a minor.

### JAMES KICKS WELL

On the drop-out Cardiff went beyond the half-way, where they were awarded a penalty. This gained 20 yards, but splendid kicking by James put Gloucester well down again. Cardiff replied with some quick passing, but the tackling was good.

### HEAVY PRESSURE

Fast play followed at the centre, where both sides tried to open out, but with little success. Another fine touch-finder put the City in Cardiff quarters, and the Welshmen were subjected to heavy pressure.

From a line-out, Gloucester carried over, but a scrum five yards out was ordered. A kick brought Cardiff relief, and Bowcott, Graham-Jones and Turnbull broke away with neat passing.

Baker, however, effect a smothering tackle. Cardiff were quickly sent back by the aid of a short punt, and following up, mid-field was again the scene of operations.

### SHARP ROUND OF PASSING

The Gloucester forwards were doing well in the loose, but Cardiff were getting quite a fair share of the ball in the scrums.

There was a sharp round of passing by the home backs, Bowcott finally kicking ahead, but Loveridge got the ball nicely to touch.

The Welshmen, however, obtained a footing at the Gloucester end, where James tried a burst through, but was held up.

## A POOR KICK

Hard forward work followed, the packs being well matched in weight. Applin got the ball away nicely, but McCanlis failed to take a low pass.

For off-side by Hemmings Gloucester were penalised, but Stone made a poor shot for goal. His kick went to the right, where Abbey gathered and dashed away, but fell to a good tackle.

A high punt was well followed up by Merrett, who made a strong run and passed. Abbey tried hard to clear, but was safely held. From this point Gloucester attacked desperately, and twice the Cardiff line had a narrow escape.

## FOILED

Stone was collared close in, and the City looked certain scorers, but the danger was luckily averted.

It was all Gloucester now, and Applin, getting the ball away, there was a promise of a score. Abbey put in a dashing burst and passed to Baker, but the latter's transfer was intercepted by Isaacs, who ran to mid-field.

Cardiff further improved with a sprint by Thomas on the left, and the Welshmen fought hard to gain an opening. The defence, however, was too good, and James eased the pressure with a timely punt to touch.

## MORE DANGEROUS SIDE

Cardiff, carrying the scrum, rushed well and secured a good attacking position, but Welshman, getting the ball to Franklin from a line-out, the latter made 20 yards with his kick. So far Gloucester had been the more dangerous side but the backs were not happy in combination.

## WILD HANDLING

James served his backs nicely, but with a possible opening Baker dropped his pass. More wild handling spoiled promising movements on both sides. Gloucester were monopolising the ball in the scrum at this point but the outsides were not making the most of their chances. Cardiff retaliated with some loose footwork and the policy paid them well on several occasions.

## JAMES PROMINENT AGAIN

Thomas put Cardiff on the attack with a sharp dash down the touch, but the home team could not get within scoring distance. James brought relief with a well judged kick and play was near the centre at half-time.

### HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER .....	Nil
CARDIFF .....	Nil

The game so far had not provided anything brilliant. The back play on both sides was below standard. Gloucester should have taken advantage of one or two openings.

Forward, Gloucester dominated the scrums, but in the loose the Welshmen had more than held their own.

Boughton restarted for Gloucester, and his kick left play 20 yards from the home half. Cardiff were playing short rushes, and the work was mostly with the forwards. A penalty against Gloucester found touch 10 yards from the City line.

## GLORIOUS CHANCE LOST

Opening out the home backs had a glorious chance. Graham-Jones, however, failed to take his transfer, and in the next minute Thomas failed similarly on the right wing. Gloucester were heavily pressed. The forwards were being overrun, and on one occasion were pushed over their line, but the position was saved at the critical moment.

James, who was extremely useful, short punted to touch and brought relief, but it was only temporary. Cardiff came back strongly, and only failure to gather passes prevented tries being scored in quick succession. Keeping up the pressure Cardiff were at length rewarded, BOWCOTT dropping a clever goal with his left foot.

#### CARDIFF SCORE AGAIN

Gloucester, from the drop-out, gained a footing in their opponents' half, where the backs were placed in possession.

The ball came across to the left wing where Abbey missed a pass from McCanlis. Graham Jones picked up, and was clear; the forwards came into possession, and a transfer to ISAACS gave the latter a clear run in under the posts. Stone converted, and Cardiff were nine points up.

#### CITY LITTLE IN PICTURE

This was quick transformation, and though the try was a good one, it came from a Gloucester attack which had broken down. Gloucester had been little in the picture since the resumption. Cardiff, on the other hand, had greatly improved in the last 10 minutes, the forwards being especially lively in the open, and Gloucester were given a very anxious time.

#### VISITING BACKS INEFFECTIVE

The home backs were smarter all round. Turnbull, with a brilliant burst, was nearly through, and only a forward pass prevented another score. Gloucester eventually eased the pressure, but the backs were very ineffective, and made little progress.

A short spell of even play followed in mid-field. More faulty play behind allowed Graham-Jones to dribble past Boughton, but Loveridge saved close in. Cardiff followed with another sharp attack, and McCanlis shone in a fine break-away.

## ANOTHER FINE TRY

Play again turned in favour of Cardiff, and bad tackling by the City allowed Thomas to start a movement which ended in OSMOND scoring behind the posts. Stone again converted, and Cardiff were 14 points up. It was another fine try, and the visitors' defence was still at fault.

Baker did splendidly at individual work on the restart, making a couple of dashing runs, but the support was not good enough. Just before the end GRAHAM-JONES added another try for Cardiff, Stone failing at the goal.

### RESULT :

CARDIFF .... 3 goals (1d.) 1 try (17 Pts.)  
GLOUCESTER ..... Nil

### REMARKS

Gloucester played disappointingly to-day, especially behind the scrums, where the handling was very poor. The City should have been points up at the interval, but the scoring ability was missing.

In the second half Cardiff were a different team, and Gloucester were clearly outplayed in all departments. Forward, the Welshmen were faster and more adaptable in the open and in the loose, but the visitors held the advantage for the most part in the scrums. There was not a distinguished player in the Gloucester side this afternoon. James did his part at outside half in opening out and kicking nicely. Applin, too, made good use of his opportunities, but behind the passing was very erratic. Baker was the pick of the threes. Boughton had little chance of saving either of the tries. Of the Gloucester forwards, Saxby, Carpenter, Hemming, and Welshman were most prominent. Cardiff were strong in all departments. Once they had scored they were a winning team.

Next week's matches will be : –

Gloucestershire v. Devon, at Exeter.

Gloucester v. U.C.S. Old Boys, at Kingsholm.

## GOOD WIN FOR UNITED

### REARRANGEMENT PROVES EFFECTIVE

Gloucester United was faced with strong opposition to-day at Kingsholm by Cardiff Athletic, the Welsh side including R. Gable-Jones, the International Trial player.

The United had Don Meadows as centre to J. T. Andrews, the Oxford sprinter who played for City and County last season.

Cardiff were dangerous at the outset, but Hook, the United's left-winger, intercepted and gained a useful piece of ground. The Welshmen returned and established a footing in the home 25, despite hard work in the loose by the home pack.

Play was fast, but fumbling spoilt one or two passing efforts. The Cardiff backs were quick off mark, but the Gloucester threes tackled well.

A chance was offered the Athletic, when they were awarded a penalty kick on the 25 line, but D. Brown just missed. The game progressed on lively lines, and the ball was given plenty of air, but promising movements on both sides were spoilt by mistakes.

The Athletic were very near a try when a short kick by Masters, at full back, went to a Cardiff man, and a concerted rush was made for the home line. A drop-out followed the ensuing tussle.

A clearing kick by G. W. Parker, who was playing a sound game at scrum-half, brought relief to the United. who were hard pressed. Another easy penalty for the Athletic was missed, and another on half-time shared the same fate.

#### Half-time Score :

Gloucester United ..... Nil  
Cardiff Athletic ..... Nil



A change was made in the United formation when the second half opened, the former city partnership of Fifield and Meadows operating round the scrum.

This had immediate effect, for MEADOWS received the ball from his partner and went through with a great sprint to score a fine try. Parker failed to convert.

The United, thus encouraged, attacked vigorously, and a couple of minutes later, after a keen struggle in the Cardiff 25, MEADOWS dropped a clever goal and put Gloucester further ahead.

It was now Cardiff's turn to attack, and a nice passing effort on the left wing ended in G. V. JONES making a strong burst along the line and going over for a try, despite a good attempt by Andrews to bring him down. Brown's goal kick hit the posts, but bounced on the right side.

The United attacked hotly again, and play in the visitors' 25 resulted in a penalty, of which PARKER took advantage with a nice kick.

The Gloucester men held the upper hand, although the Welshmen were fighting hard, and they were very near a score several times in the closing stages. PARKER added another penalty goal on time.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER UNITED .. 3 goals (1d, 2p), 1 try (13 Pts.)  
CARDIFF UNITED ..... 1 goal (5 points)