

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1932

GLOUCESTER 7 Pts., PLYMOUTH ALBION Nil

CITY'S WELL DESERVED VICTORY

KEEN FORWARD STRUGGLE –

BUT BACK PLAY DISAPPOINTING

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester defeated Plymouth Albion in both matches last season and with a more representative team in the field than for weeks' past, had great hopes of repeating their success at Kingsholm this afternoon.

McCanlis was an absentee owing to an injured back, and Dr. Steele-Perkins and Franklin were also on the injured list. Dr. R. N. Williams, the County forward and former St. Bart's Hospital captain, made his first appearance for the Club.

Owing to the similarity in the colours of the two clubs, the Gloucester players wore dark blue jerseys. The weather was cold and the attendance was only about 4,000 at the time fixed for the kick off.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

FULL-BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : C. C. Tanner, G. W. Parker J. C. Brooks, and A. E. Brookes,

HALF-BACKS : F. Fifield and R. James.

FORWARDS : A. Carpenter, F. Wadley, E. Comley, J. Hemming, A. Welshman, K. Smith, Dr. R. N. Williams, and L. E. Saxby (capt.).

PLYMOUTH ALBION

FULL-BACK : A. Rowe.

THREE-QUARTERS : T. Rees, F. Granger, J. Cox, and D. Parker.

HALF-BACKS : E. Richards and A. Davies.

FORWARDS : E. Stanbury, R. Sparks, W. Wright, B. Bestwick, J. Hanley, W. Paul, J. Rowe, and C. Gummer.

REFEREE : Mr. S. H. Budd (Somerset County)

THE GAME

The teams lined up ten minutes late, Boughton kicking off for Gloucester, Rowe's reply going to touch inside his own half. The City heeled from the first scrum, but Brooks sent a bad pass to the right and the ball was knocked on. A dropped transfer by Davies allowed the Gloucester forwards to dribble to Rowe, who checked them cleverly and punted to touch at the centre.

EARLY SCORE FOR GLOUCESTER

There was an exchange of kicks later between Rowe and Boughton, ending in the former being tackled ten yards from the line. The ball came out smartly to the home backs, and JAMES finding his colleagues well marked dropped a good goal, the ball just covering the cross-bar.

Centre play followed the restart, but Gloucester forged ahead with good footwork, the Albion being hard pressed. The ground was treacherous on top, and players were finding it difficult to keep their feet. Carrying a couple of scrums, the Albion rushed out of danger, and Davies further improved matters with a smart run.

Gloucester, however, sent back through Boughton, and then came a good service from Fifield from the scrum. Tanner was served by Brookes, and the International dashed away down touch in fine style. facing Rowe he cross-punted, but the Albion just managed to save from several home forwards.

ALBION FORWARDS SHINE

Play was fast, with the Albion forwards doing well in the loose. Brookes burst through for Gloucester, but his transfer was a poor one, and though he recovered nothing was done. Opening out in the loose the Albion handled neatly, and the Gloucester 25 was visited for the first time. D. Parker attempted a drop goal, but the shot was a long way out and Boughton touched down.

Operations were evenly contested for a time, but the back play on both sides lacked finish. A fumble by Brookes gave the visitors an opportunity to break away, but Boughton took a flying kick and saved the situation. Gloucester twice got the ball away, but the kicking was rather aimless.

GOOD DEFENCE

Near the centre Fifield opened up nicely, and James and Brookes in turn handled. The centre sent Tanner away, and the wing man cleared Rowe splendidly. He looked all over a scorer, but ten yards outside he cross-kicked. The ball fell amongst the Gloucester forwards, who were well up, but a desperate effort to score was thwarted.

OPENING MISSED

Gloucester were beaten back by the aid of Davies, and good kicking gave them a footing inside the home half. Here the City backs handled neatly, and Tanner brought off a splendid run and pass to Parker. The latter threw inside, but the ball was missed, and with it a good opening.

The play continued keen, especially forward, where the Albion were seen to advantage. A punt across by Rees was well taken by Brooks, who handed back to Boughton for the latter to find a splendid touch.

The game proceeded along merrily, but neither side were able to bring off any concerted movement.

Saxby led a splendid dribble of the Gloucester front which carried play up to Rowe, but they were checked, and the visitors replied with an equally good effort.

NARROW ESCAPE FOR ALBION

Some Gloucester passing breaking down, the visitors sent through to Boughton, who checked, and the ball rolling loose, Williams started a rush which beat the opposition.

The ball was taken right up to the Albion line, where a score was narrowly averted. After pressing hard for a few minutes Gloucester were beaten off, and Boughton was severely tested.

Ken Smith, damaged in a scramble, had to leave the field, and the Albion took charge of the play, having the best of matters to the interval.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (d)

ALBION Nil

Gloucester had done well enough to earn their four points' lead, but the Albion had shown good form forward and were dangerous with loose rushes.

Albion restarted with vigour and had the better of the opening exchanges. By the aid of loose footwork they reached the home 25, where Comley broke through with the ball at his feet. He, however, kicked too hard, and Rowe, fielding promptly put the ball to touch.

A penalty against Cox (who had changed places with Richards) for an off-side tackle of Fifield, enabled Boughton to gain 30 yards with the resultant kick. The Albion quickly recovered and play settled at mid-field.

Boughton gathered well from a kick down and found touch, Grainger just failing to keep the ball in play.

DISAPPOINTING

Gloucester heeling, there was a bout of passing along the third line, but it ended disappointingly. A similar result attended a later movement, and all round the display of the backs was much below standard.

A long punt by James was gathered by Rowe, who was surrounded by Gloucester forwards, but he dodged cleverly and saved a dangerous situation. From this point the Albion rushed to the other end, where forwards were mainly engaged.

At length the ball was got away to the home backs, and Tanner was prominent with a strong run, but slipped and fell just as he was attempting to cut inside the full back.

PARKER'S TRY

Vigorous forward exchanges followed, but the play lacked real incident. Gloucester had a chance following an effort by Hemming, but Saxby could not hold the ball. The Albion eased the pressure slightly, but the City came back, and a splendid opening by Brooks gave PARKER a chance. Sprinting hard down touch, the Old Cryptian beat the defence and scored a capital try wide out. Boughton failed to convert from a difficult angle.

SPIRITED ATTACK

Gloucester went off with a bang on the resumption, and they were placed in a good position by James with a run and punt to touch. The Albion warded off a spirited attack with a bit of luck, and Richards further improved. Back came the City forwards with a combined rush, and it looked as if the defence would be penetrated, The position, however, was saved at the critical moment, and useful kicks brought relief.

There was no slacking off in the vigour of subsequent exchanges, the Albion's marking especially being very deadly. The City worked down with passing, but Tanner was tackled by D. Parker.

The best policy on the treacherous pitch was footwork, and both sets of forwards were seen in some fine rushes. As a spectacle, however, the play left a good deal to be desired owing to the faulty play behind the scrum.

Fifield being penalised, Sparks took a shot for goal, but the ball fell short and Boughton punted well out to touch. Play to the end was keenly contested but there was no further scoring.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ... 1 goal (d) 1 try (7 points)
PLYMOUTH ALBION Nil

REMARKS

Gloucester recorded their first win to-day, since St. Bart's Hospital were defeated on October 14[sic], and the victory was in every way deserved.

The Albion put up a desperate struggle forward, and there were times when their rushes were very dangerous. The City, however, were never overpowered, and counter-attacked with loose footwork with great success at times.

Gloucester, on the whole, had the better of the tight scrums, and Fifield, who replaced Applin, played a consistently good game throughout. He plied James with a good service, but there were too many dropped passes and fumbling among the backs to make full use of this advantage.

The ground conditions certainly were a big handicap to the players, and the heavy rain made things worse in the second half.

THE SCORERS

James' dropped goal was the only score for a long time, though Gloucester put in some very fine attacks. The Albion, however, were deadly attackers, and though Tanner tried his hardest and made two or three spirited dashes, he was unable to get through. Parker's try was the outcome of a neat opening by J. C. Brooks, but the Old Cryptian is entitled to full credit for the resolute way he went for the line. He showed more pace than it was thought he possessed.

The combination of the home backs was encouraging up to a point, and they looked like the more convincing set, but the many mistakes in handling made play very scrappy. Plymouth had sturdy tacklers in Granger and Parker, and Rees was useful with his kicks.

EXCELLENT FULL-BACKS

Richards divided his attention between scrum-half and centre, but he was not so conspicuous as usual, the best individual work being accomplished by Davies. Rowe saved remarkably well under great pressure and prevented at least a couple of tries. Boughton played well up to form, and his strong defence, safe fielding, and kicking were invaluable.

R. N. Williams made a successful debut forward for Gloucester and was a strenuous worker throughout. In the loose, Saxby, Hemming, Comley and Wadley were continually prominent, but all took their share in the heavy exchanges. Plymouth proved a very powerful opposition, with Stanbury, Sparks, Bestwick and Gummer leaders in the majority of aggressive movements.

Next week : Gloucester v. Bath, at Kingsholm; Gloucester United v. Bath United, away; England v. Wales, at Swansea.