

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1932

GLO'STER BEATEN IN HARD FOUGHT GAME

WEAKENED SIDE'S GOOD DISPLAY

BRILLIANT TRY SCORED BY SHEPPARD

POOR HEELING FOILS CITY

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester were the first team to beat Leicester this season, but the chances of repeating the Kingsholm victory in the return game this afternoon were not encouraging in the absence of McCanlis, Tanner, and Carpenter.

Last season Gloucester suffered an eclipse on the Welford-road ground, Leicester gaining a decisive win by 3 goals 4 tries (27 points) to 1 goal 1 try (8 points). The City were hopelessly outclassed behind the scrum on that occasion.

The Midlanders have not been doing very well recently, owing to team changes, but they usually get together a strong side to meet Gloucester at home, and fully anticipated another success.

Gloucester brought V. Sheppard (the former Birmingham University captain and now with the Blackwell Club), and R. Hook, to fill the vacancies at three-quarter, while F. G. Merrett substituted A. Carpenter forward.

Further changes in the Gloucester team weakened the side. Parker, indisposed, had to cry off, and this necessitated Franklin playing at three-quarter. His place forward was filled by H. J. Hyett.

Saxby also decided not to risk playing owing to knee trouble, and A. Morris made his first appearance for the Premiers.

Leicester had to field short of George Beamish, D. Coote and Hodder, engaged with the Royal Air Force team at Coventry, but Greenlees re-appeared at outside-half.

The revised teams were : –

#### GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. Hook, V. Sheppard, J. C. Brooks, and L. Franklin.

HALF-BACKS : C. Fifield and Roy James.

FORWARDS : H. J. Hyett, E. Comley, F. Wadley, F. G. Merrett, J. Hemming, K. Smith, A. Morris, and Dr. R. N. Williams.

#### LEICESTER

BACK : R. J. Barr.

THREE-QUARTERS : J. T. Hardwicke, N. Bacon, D. E. Morris, and S. H. Moore.

HALF-BACKS : B. C. Gadney and H. D. Greenlees.

FORWARDS : A. C. Hall, D. J. Norman, R. A. K. Wilner, G. P. Vallence, E. G. Coleman, A. P. Hughes, C. H. Pearse, and A. H. Greenwood.

REFEREE : Mr. J. Hughes (London).

#### THE GAME

The weather was cold and there was only about 5,000 spectators present when Leicester kicked off. The home team at once gained an attacking position, and Morris forced a minor with a kick over the line. Gloucester rushed well from the drop-out, but Barr stopped the attack with a nice touch-finder.

## LEICESTER'S EARLY SUCCESS

From loose play, Gadney picked up and gave to GREENLEES, who, taking deliberate aim, dropped a lovely goal in less than four minutes from the start. Gloucester restarted with determination, and some good work by Fifield took play to well inside the home 25.

### A LUCKY KICK

The City forwards carried a scrum and dribbled through to the line, where Barr was lucky in kicking dead from the field of play. Gloucester were working well together and pressed, but could not get through. Offside by Coleman gave the visitors a penalty, Boughton making a fine attempt to land a goal. Failure to field a pass allowed Leicester to kick away and pass Boughton, but he raced back and saved.

Gloucester were in serious danger, but the forwards broke through with the ball at their feet and rushed to the centre. Play was fast and open, with Leicester getting the ball more often.

### CHECKED

Boughton shone with some fine kicking, but Greenlees and Morris replied with interest, and honours were even. The City at length heeled, and the backs handled smartly, but Sheppard's pass to Franklin was foiled. Gloucester tried again, Brooks trying hard to break through, but was checked in time. Leicester attacked strongly after this, and there was some fine passing, but the tackling was sound.

### FINE BREAKAWAY

From a cross-kick by Moore, the City line was seriously threatened, but only a touchdown resulted. Gloucester came away beautifully after the drop-out, Brooks being prominent with a fine breakthrough. He reached Barr, but there was no-one in attendance, and his long pass out to the wing was not accepted.

The City set up another attack, the forwards doing very well, but a knock-on spoiled the movement. From their own 25 Leicester rushed to the other end, Pearse making a long run. There was every appearance of a try, when a smothering tackle saved the situation.

#### SEVERE PRESSURE

The contest was splendidly waged, and in favour of Leicester, who came near to scoring on two occasions. Gloucester were severely pressed on their own line, where, from a knock-on, Hardwick was only pulled down a yard outside.

From the ensuing scrum the ball rolled over the line and HARDWICK touched down for a try. Barr failed at goal. Leicester had thus gained a seven-points lead at the end of 25 minutes' play.

#### POOR HEELING

Gloucester continued to struggle with vigorous forward work but the pack were unable to do much in the way of heeling. Fifield checked Gadney once or twice and the International's service to Greenlees was very wild at times. Hemming started a dribble from a scrum and Ken Smith kicked across but the ball went to touch.

Leicester opened an attack from their own 25 but Boughton was safe and returned splendidly to touch. Midfield play followed, the Gloucester forwards holding their own creditably.

For a scrum infringement Gloucester were penalised, and Barr had a shot for goal, but the kick fell short. Leicester had the better of the exchanges, but could not score again before the interval.

Half-time :

Leicester ..... 1 goal (d.) 1 try  
Gloucester ..... Nil

Gloucester had performed exceedingly well considering their disorganised side. The forwards stuck to their opponents well though beaten in heeling.

Leicester resumed short of Coleman, who had been damaged in a tackle. Gloucester with well gauged kicking got off well, but when the ball came out to the backs there was a knock-on.

#### A BRILLIANT TRY

The City persevered, however, and their efforts were rewarded with a brilliant try by SHEPPARD, who beat the defence in fine style to score between the posts.

Boughton converted, and Gloucester were only two points behind. Leicester restarted with vigour and there was some keen play in the visitors' 25.

Hardwick tried hard to score on the left, but missed the touch. Good kicking by Boughton brought relief for Gloucester, but they gave away a penalty, Barr failing with a shot for goal.

#### JAMES TO THE FORE

A clever run by James secured a fine opening for Gloucester. Franklin carried on and passed to Wadley who was pulled down at once. James was again to the fore with a lovely touch kick, and from this point Gloucester tried to force matters, but were not successful.

#### NOT ALLOWED

Greenlees and Morris changed the situation, and later passing between Fifield, James, Shepherd, and Brooks, sent Hook away. The wing man dashed down touch and punted ahead. The ball was subsequently carried over the line and a Gloucester player touched down, but instead of a try, Leicester were awarded a penalty kick. This was hard lines on the City.

## DETERMINED FOOTBALL

The visitors continued to play determined football, and Leicester had one or two narrow escapes. Again, however, the home side benefitted by the aid of a penalty when under severe pressure.

The Gloucester forwards, with fine footwork, gained 20 yards, Barr being tackled in possession. Mistakes, however, let Leicester get to the centre, where play was vigorously contested. Gloucester gained the upper hand, and Franklin got through, but Barr won the touch.

## EFFORTS THAT FAILED

Subsequent play was fast and exciting. Brooks shone with a splendid run and nearly got through. Later Fifield cleared effectually, and James further improved, but the position was lost. Leicester, with a sharp attack severely tested the City's defence, but the visitors' tackling was grand. A penalty well taken by Boughton eventually gave Gloucester relief.

It was a terrific struggle between these two rival forward lines, and there was little in it except that the Leicester heeling was cleverer. Gloucester were kept more or less on the defence, but the marking of the backs was excellent. Penalties aided the City and from one, Boughton had a shot for goal from half-way. He was short and Barr punted back to the touch.

Play was mostly just inside the Gloucester half, and a desperately keen game ended in the defeat of Gloucester by a narrow margin of two points.

## RESULT :

LEICESTER ..... 1 goal (d.), 1 try (7 pts.)  
GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal (5 pts.)

## COMMENTS

Gloucester put up a wonderful fight and with a bit of luck Boughton might easily have gained the winning points. Leicester with a man short in the scrum [in] the second half, were beaten for the most part.

The City backs played a fine game and worked splendidly together. Leicester perhaps had more of the ball but Gadney's passing was erratic, and Greenlees was too closely watched to do much in the way of making openings. The home backs did not handle any too well, and Gloucester were more dependable. James did capital all-round work, and Fifield stood up to his big opponent Gadney, in good style.

Sheppard was prominent with the best individual effort of the match and he and Brooks were seen to great advantage. Boughton was fully the equal of Barr in all phases of play. He experienced hard luck with one or two penalty shots.

Gloucester's performance on the whole did the side every credit, and on the play they should have shared the honours.

### LISTER'S OVERWHELMED BY UNITED

#### ALL SCORING IN SECOND HALF

Gloucester United opened strongly in their game with Listers at Kingsholm, but the Works side put up a stubborn defence. The City backs, handling smartly, came very near the line, but Listers' tackling was sure. Another nice passing effort led to Llewellyn Jones cutting through and sending to P. Jones, but the wing man was pulled up when nearly over. Listers took their chances, but could not get away. The United continued lively, and Powell was well up behind a kick, but the ball went dead.

Half-time :

Gloucester United ..... Nil  
Listers' ..... Nil

The United resumed the attack in the second half. Don Meadows missed a penalty goal from a nice position. The United deserved a try after a splendid cut through by Meadows and brilliant passing by the threes. Clark was almost over when he was tackled.

Immediately afterwards Haines followed up a kick and snatched a try, which Parker failed to convert. P. Jones went up well behind his own kick, and the full-back slipping, he added a try, which Meadows narrowly missed converting.

Jones snapped up another chance when he gathered from a clearing kick, but Parker mis-kicked. Meadows dropped a nice penalty goal, and Clark sold the dummy to get a clever try, which Meadows converted.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER UTD. .. 2 goals (1p) 3 tries (17 pts.)  
LISTER'S ..... Nil