

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1932

GLOUCESTER 18 PTS., HARLEQUINS 13 PTS.

FREE SCORING IN FAST, OPEN GAME

HARLEQUINS FINISH STRONGLY

SPLENDID TRIES FOR CITY

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester had an attractive home fixture this afternoon in the visit of the famous Harlequins. At Twickenham last season the City gained a surprising victory by 13 pts. to 10.

Owing to an injured ankle Roy James had to stand down, but fortunately Boughton found himself fit to play, and he returned to full back, Graham Parker, originally selected for the position, filling the vacancy at centre three-quarter.

C. C. Tanner, who was unable to assist in the holiday games, re-appeared, but McCanlis was not available. Welshman and Saxby were absent forward.

There were several changes in the Harlequins ranks, notably at three-quarter, where Reeve, Chapman and Hovde were displaced by Style, Hodge and Pattison.

Graham Davies (who played regularly for Gloucester last season) assisted at outside-half, and a local substitute played forward.

Teams :

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : C. C. Tanner, J. C. Brooks, G. W. Parker, and V. Sheppard.

HALF-BACKS : F. Fifield and Don Meadows.

FORWARDS : E. Comley, A. Carpenter, F. Wadley, Dr. R. N. Williams, Ken Smith, L. H. J. Hyett, J. Hemming, and L. Franklin.

HARLEQUINS

BACK : S. A. Block.

THREE-QUARTERS : P. E. Hodge, J. A. Baiss, H. A. Style, and H. C. Pattison.

HALF-BACKS : Graham Davies and J. R. Worton.

FORWARDS : A. E. Prescott, T. L. Tanner, G. B. Coghlan, P. E. Dunkley, C. R. Hinds-Powell, P. W. Brook, E. L. Sparke, and another.

Referee : Mr. S. H. Budd (Somerset).

THE GAME

The ground was in splendid condition, and one of the best gates of the season gave the visitors a hearty reception. The start was delayed ten minutes owing to the City team being photographed. F. Russell filled the vacant position forward for the Harlequins.

The Harlequins kicked off, and both sides at once opened up the play, but little ground was made. Eventually Meadows sent Brooke away, but the centre kicked ahead, and although Tanner secured he was at once tackled. He, however, passed back to Parker, who punted across, but a visitor cleared to touch.

GLOUCESTER ATTACK

Close rushing by the Gloucester forwards gave the City a good attacking position, but Worton gathering, punted to Boughton, who returned finely to touch.

Gloucester again got on the attack, but punting was again resorted to, and little ground was made. The 'Quins relieved to the centre, where the Gloucester backs were again placed in possession, but the movement was easily checked.

BACK PLAY MODERATE

The 'Quins progressed with forward work, but Gloucester came right away, and from a kick ahead Parker had hard luck in knocking on in trying to gather.

A mistake by Block allowed the City to reach the 25, where Meadows attempted a drop for goal, the ball going a foot outside the upright.

Play was fairly fast, but neither set of backs displayed form good enough to force an opening. A run and cross punt by Pattison gave the Harlequins territorial advantage, and Boughton conceded a minor from a kick over the line.

A FINE TRY

From the drop-out the Harlequins sent back, and Gloucester were in danger until Meadows punted out to near the centre. Tanner followed up at a great pace and tackled Block in possession, and play settled at the centre. Here Gloucester opened out, and a lovely movement followed.

The ball came across to Sheppard, who handed off Pattison, and raced up to Block. Giving an inside pass to BROOKS, the latter completed the effort by scoring a capital try. Boughton just failed to convert.

NO SNAP

Gloucester had the better of the game on the restart, and the 'Quins' defence was severely tested. Parker broke through with a dribble, but over-ran the ball. Later he was more successful with a sharp dash down touch, being upset by Block. Gloucester had a possible chance of scoring after this, but the position was lost and a weak pass allowed Dunkley to kick past Boughton. Meadows, however, got back and got in a clever relief kick to touch. The Harlequins were getting a fair share of the ball, but there was no snap in their attacks, and the handling at times was very elementary.

PRETTY COMBINATION

Subsequent play was scrambling, but it was relieved with a brilliant run by Meadows and passing and interpassing between Hyett and Comley. Block was beaten, but Comley being chased from behind passed back, and the ball was captured by an opponent. It was a pretty bit of combination which deserved a try.

HARLEQUINS TAKE THE LEAD

Gloucester, working well together, attacked with vigour, and there was a nice opening on the right, but it was not accepted. The 'Quins changed the position with useful kicking, and later Pattison put in a high punt to Boughton, and prevented a reply. The ball became loose, and STYLE gathering, forced himself over the line with a try, which he converted, giving the Londoners the lead.

Gloucester played up strongly on the restart, Meadows shining with a nice run, but his pass was knocked on by a visitor. The City worked hard to regain the lead, but they were beaten off, and centre play followed.

HALF-TIME :

HARLEQUINS 1 goal
GLOUCESTER 1 try

On the play the Harlequins were lucky in leading at the interval, but Gloucester had failed to make the most of their chances.

Boughton restarted for Gloucester, the ball going to touch at the 25 line off a visitor. The City backs were early in evidence with a passing bout across the field, but the defence prevailed. Another handling movement broke down at Parker, and the ball was kicked through to Boughton. The latter ran round and cross-punted to the left, but the visitors managed to effect a clearance.

MEADOWS' FINE TRY

Gloucester continued on the attack, and they quickly added to their score. It was a MEADOWS' effort almost entirely. Breaking through, he fed Sheppard, and receiving a re-pass beat Block easily and scored a fine try. Boughton converted, and Gloucester led 8–5.

HARLEQUINS PRESSED

Fast play followed the resumption, and Gloucester lost a good slice of ground through tackling Block off-side. Later another penalty was given the 'Quins, but Style failed with his place kick for goal. Splendid work by the Gloucester forwards, Hyett leading, pressed the 'Quins severely, but the final kick went over the line, and a touchdown was recorded.

OPENING LOST

The Harlequins, with useful passing, made progress on the drop-out, but Meadows sent them back with clever work. Heeling by the City forwards gave the backs an opening, but Brooks punted instead of letting the ball come out to the wing, where Tanner was waiting with a glorious opening. Neat work by Hyett and again by Fifield kept Gloucester in the ascendancy, but the final transfer was snapped up by an opponent.

It was all Gloucester just now, and there were more chances, but missed passes spoilt them.

TANNER'S FIRST CHANCE

The Harlequins twice benefitted by picking up the ball and getting away, but good tackling eventually checked. Gloucester responded, and then Tanner had his first real chance. The International ran in fine style, clearing Worton and Hodge, but fell to a low tackle by Block.

Gloucester attacked on the other wing, but Sheppard was pulled down in time. Still keeping up the pressure, the City tested the defence, and from a pass by Wadley, COMLEY ran over in the corner. Boughton converted with a glorious kick from the touch-line.

The Harlequins, though eight points down, played up resolutely on the kick-off, backs and forwards doing well. They went very close through Hodge, and there was a keen struggle inside the home 25. In some loose play Boughton picked up, and with a fine punt found touch at the centre.

BROOKS SCORES

Breaking away with a loose rush the Harlequins opened out and there was a drop for goal, but the ball went very wide. Pattison, however, dashed up, and nearly scored, a minor being given.

The Harlequins kept the game very open, and Worton initiated several passing bouts, but the Londoners found the tackling too close. Inside his own half Fifield got the ball away on the left, where Brooks at once served Sheppard. The latter brought off a strong dash to Block, where he returned the ball to BROOKS, for the latter to score a splendid try. Boughton again converted, giving the City 18 points to 5.

TRY FOR HARLEQUINS

Though outpointed, the Harlequins continued to play fine open football. Baiss brought off a good run, but was brought down by Franklin, who had got back. Later, however, the same player was again distinguished and PATTISON was given a try wide out. The goal kick failed.

Play to the end was fast and interesting. Gloucester had the better of the exchanges for a time, but a bad pass by Parker to Tanner was taken by Hodge, who punted to the opposite wing. Gloucester players were out of position, and DUNKLEY fielding, scored an easy try under the posts. Style added the goal points.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 3 goals 1 try (18 points)

HARLEQUINS 2 goals 1 try (13 points)

REMARKS

Slips and bad judgment by Gloucester in the last ten minutes gave away two tries, and enabled the Harlequins to make a closer finish than looked possible.

The game provided a lot of fast, open football, but the best combined efforts were seen in the second half, when Gloucester asserted superiority for long periods.

The Harlequins fielded a strong forward division, especially clever in opening up the play, and Gloucester had to keep moving all the time.

In the scrums the City were the stronger, with Carpenter, Wadley, and Williams very prominent.

Hyett, who did well during the holidays, again shone in the open, being always up, and displaying keen intelligence in attack. Franklin and Hemming were also extremely useful in skirmishing tactics.

Dunkley, Brook and Hinds-Powell were three forwards distinguished for the Harlequins, and the pack as a whole maintained a fast pace to the finish.

TANNER STARVED

Outside the scrum Gloucester had the sounder division, though judgment was often lacking, and missed transfers spoiled some beautiful openings. Parker, playing centre to Tanner, did not make the best use of the International, who waited in vain for the ball with every chance of a score. The few opportunities that came his way Tanner made the fullest use of, and only a great tackle by Block stopped one certain try.

Brooks and Sheppard worked more successfully on the left, though here again the handling was too slow at times and allowed of interceptions. Sheppard paved the way for both tries credited to Brooks, his strong running and hand-off being a feature. With proper attention Tanner would have made things lively on the other wing, for he appeared to be in fine fettle.

MEADOWS' CLEVER SIDE-STEP

At half back Fifield and Meadows set up a good understanding, and had a bit the better of Worton and Graham Davies, who later in the game changed places with Style at centre. Meadows' try was a pretty effort and his clever side-step completely deceived Block, who was left standing. Worton wears wonderfully well, for he gained his International cap five seasons ago, and was out of the game for some time.

Baiss was the best of the Harlequins backs, and he made two or three smart runs in the second half. Pattisson was a useful wing, but as a combination the Londoners were not up to standard. Reeve, Chapman and Howe (the Oxford Blue) were naturally missed.

BOUGHTON'S BEST

Boughton showed no ill-effects of his recent injury, and he came back to show his best form. He kicked splendidly at times, and that one conversion from the touch line was a fine effort. Block was a little uncertain at times, but rendered good service to his side when placed under pressure.

Next week : Gloucester v. Llanelly at Kingsholm; Gloucester United v. Bristol United at Bristol.

JC