

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1924

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER BEATEN BY EIGHT POINTS

TWO DROPPED GOALS FOR THE SERVICES

KEEN AND STRENUOUS GAME, BUT SCRAPPY FOOTBALL

Devonport Services, the only English team successful at Kingsholm last season, brought a strong side to oppose Gloucester for the first of the two annual fixtures between the clubs. Gloucester had three changes from the team which defeated Oxford on Thursday. G. Beyers (of Oxford) took the place of Pope at centre; Collins resumed his place at scrum half; and, owing to Short being on the injured list, Bayliss returned to the forwards after being out of the side for three matches following his mishap at Cardiff.

Teams : —

GLOUCESTER

BACK: T. Millington.

THREE-QUARTERS: S. Crowther, G. Beyers, H. D. Mackay, and S. A. Brown.

HALF-BACKS: W. Collins and G. Thomas.

FORWARDS: T. Voyce (captain), F. W. Ayliffe, F. Ford, A. Hall, H. Roberts, S. Bayliss, W. Hemmings, and S. Duberley.

DEVONPORT SERVICES

BACK : Shipwright Hoskin.

THREE-QUARTERS: Lieut. Guthrie, E.R.A. George, Lieut. Garrett, and Lieut. Haward.

HALF-BACKS: A. B. Knapman and Sub-Lieut. Lee.

FORWARDS: Marine Gardner, Lieut. Honeyman, P. O. Harrop, E.R.A. Birkett, Corpl. Thomas, Pte. Mog-Davis, Corpl. Jones, and A.B. Paddon.

Referee : A. J. Lock (Somerset)

THE GAME

Ideal football weather prevailed, and there was a good average attendance of spectators present when the players took the field, the visitors looking prim and smart in their combination of blue, white, and red. Voyce lost the toss, and kicked off against the sun and wind.

The Services started passing at once, and the ball came along to the right wing, where Guthrie failed to handle and the movement was brought to an end. From the ensuing scrum Knapman broke away on the short side of the scrum and punted to Millington, who was pulled down by the opposing forwards. Later the ball was kicked across to the left wing, but off-side was given against the visitors.

Voyce made headway with the resultant penalty, and later Brown kicked well down the field, causing Hoskin to run back and gather. He did this successfully, but in attempting to run out he was tackled and lost the ball. Gloucester had a good chance, but the Services saved luckily. For off-side the Services were again penalised, and Voyce had a shot for goal but the ball struck the upright and rebounded into the field of play.

Gloucester rushed close, and twice in quick succession the City were nearly through. Good kicking brought relief, and Lee brought off a strong run which took the Services to the home end. Some strenuous forward work followed, ending in the City forwards dribbling clear. Voyce followed up and dashed away with the ball, but his pass inside was forward.

The Services came back strongly, and the backs threw the ball about freely, but nothing resulted. Millington was cheered for some fine work, and exciting play ensued at midfield. Collins opened out to Thomas, but the latter was collared in attempting to break through, and his pass was intercepted. Millington made a mark from a punt down, and with his kick found touch with a lovely shot 40 yards up the field.

Working strongly, the Gloucester forwards, with Ayliffe in the lead, made a spirited attack which only just failed in a score. The Services with long kicks removed play to more favourable quarters, but Voyce with two strong dashes placed the City in a good position. Crowther shone in a sharp run down touch, finally punting over the back's head, but the bounce beat him.

Working desperately Gloucester severely tested the Services' defence but the tackling and saving were great. After severe pressure the Services eventually cleared, and with good passing and a long punt transferred play to the home half. Here Brown, receiving a pass from Collins, went clean away and kicked over the head of Hoskin. There was a big race for the ball and Brown got up, and took it on a few yards, but a Service man came to the rescue at the critical moment and robbed the City man of a try.

More hard forward work ensued in the next few minutes, both packs playing dashing football. Gloucester several times opened out, but the marking was too close to allow the home backs to travel far. A spell of even play followed at midfield, and here high tackling by some of the City players gave away a good slice of ground.

The Services now took a turn at handling., but mistakes ensued at each movement. Knapman was playing a very keen and sharp game at the scrum, and several times was prominent with clever work. It was due to him that caused Millington to be closely pressed, but the City custodian got out of a difficult situation cleverly. In their own 25 Voyce started the home backs going, and Beyers cut out a nice opening, but the pass to Crowther was ruled forward.

Next Brown, taking advantage of some fumbling by the visiting backs, dribbled through and had hard lines in failing to gather with a clear field with the exception of Hoskin. Gloucester made further progress and went very close, Hoskin being forced to kick to touch close in. Ten yards from their line the Services initiated a bout of passing, and the centre was reached before a forward transfer from inside stopped progress. The game was keenly contested to the interval, but there was no score.

HALF-TIME :
GLOUCESTER Nil
SERVICES Nil

The football, though keen, vigorous, and open in the first half, had lacked skill, and there were far too many mistakes to be interesting. The Services restarted, Millington only getting in a poor return to touch with his left foot. Out of some scrambling play Collins picked up and punted high to GARRETT, who taking a long drop at goal covered the cross-bar with a fine shot, thus giving first points to the Devonport men.

Gloucester resumed with vigour, but though gaining ground, the City could not gain the necessary opening. Play hovered in the Services' half until Garrett brought off a dashing run, beating the defence cleverly. Just as he was looking likely to get clear he was pounced upon from behind, and a possible try saved.

The Gloucester forwards were instrumental in changing the position of play, and later Ayliffe sent Voyce away. Beyers further improved, but the pass to Brown was forward. In the next minute Hall took the ball in a long line-out and broke away, but Gloucester could not take advantage.

The game as a whole was very disappointing after Thursday's display, the City as a side failing to show anything like the same form. The Services' backs were decidedly the smarter both in kicking and general play, and this gave them a big advantage. From a punt over the line Gloucester conceded a minor. The drop-out was charged down, as was the next kick, and the City were placed in danger. The ball being kicked out to GEORGE, the latter repeated Garrett's effort and dropped a good goal. This gave the Services an eight points lead, and the visitors deserved it.

Gloucester restarted, and working better together they gained a footing in their opponents' 25. Good work by Collins took play very close to the line, but the City could not cover the mark. They were eventually cleared by good kicking, and midfield play followed.

Here Collins set his back in motion, but Brown could not get past Guthrie. Again the City tried an open attack on the left, but though Mackay tried hard he was upset on the 25 line. Gloucester could not maintain their advantage for from a long throw out the Services got right away, and big kicking transferred the game to the other end. Gloucester were heeling well in the scrums, and Collins initiated several bouts of passing, but the movements were never finished off successfully, due to the sound tackling and close marking of the visiting backs.

A breakaway by the Services forwards led to a hot attack on the home line and there was a narrow escape for a try. With a great effort, in which Voyce took a leading part, Gloucester rushed half the length of the field. The ball was kicked past Hoskin, but in the race for it Garrett beat the home men and turned to touch. Gloucester had possible chances of doing something in subsequent play, but the attacking movements all broke down.

Gloucester were a beaten side now unless something remarkable happened, for two scores were required to save the game. The City put forward strenuous efforts to open their account, and in one fierce rush looked likely to succeed, but only a touch-down resulted.

Gloucester pressed to the end, but could not score, and had to retire defeated by 8 points.

RESULT :

SERVICES 2 goals (d) (8 points)

GLOUCESTER Nil

REMARKS

Compared with Thursday's game, to-day's exhibition was keenly disappointing. Not that Gloucester were beaten; the City did not deserve to win on the form shown, and all-round, with the exception of full-back, the Services were the better equipped combination.

The two dropped goals credited to Garrett and George were both pot-shots but they came off, and counted four points each – lucky if you like, but useful in a game of this afternoon's description. But apart from the actual scores, the winners displayed the superior football though even the standard set up by the Services was by no means high. There were far too many mistakes in handling, and at times play was so scrappy as to be entirely devoid of interest.

Forward, the struggle was fierce and strenuous, and the City could claim no distinct advantage. The visitors, led by Gardner the International forward, were a keen and vigorous set, fast on the ball and quick to make full use of any slip by the home players. In the scrums the Gloucester men got possession frequently in the second half and brought off some dangerous loose rushes, but the finish displayed against Oxford University was . . .

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. . .tackling, players going far too high at times and allowing opponents to get away after being partially collared. There was some fine work accomplished individually in the Gloucester pack, and Voyce, Duberley, Ford, and Ayliffe were frequently noticeable, but the visitors offered a stubborn defence and some of the saving was very fine.

At half -back, Knapman and Lee were a better combination than the home pair, though Collins got through a lot of useful work in the second half and tried hard to make openings. Thomas was not so successful as in the mid-week match, and Taylor was greatly missed this afternoon.

The Gloucester three-quarters did not suffer for want of opportunities; they had quite a fair share of the ball, but though Beyers made some praiseworthy efforts to make openings, the line rarely giving one confidence that something tangible would accrue. Several times the players were out of position, which allowed the defence to be easily penetrated, and generally the men stood too far back. The Services as a line were the speedier lot and in well-judged kicking they easily beat the home three-quarters. The visitors were not afraid to throw the ball about, and occasionally some clever handling was witnessed, but there were many times when play was very scrappy and wild.

Millington, at full-back, gave another capital display, and on his form the City custodian is bound to receive consideration for one of the forthcoming trials. His fielding to-day was perfect, and the majority of his kicks, either foot, had good length and direction. Hoskin was lucky once or twice, but on the whole the Services player was satisfactory, and he showed no hesitation in going down to the ball, and some of the Gloucester rushes took a lot of stopping.

Next week : Thursday, Jubilee celebration match – Gloucester v Capt. W. S. Donne's XV.; Saturday, Gloucester v Newport, at Newport.

GLOUCESTER A v. GLOUCESTER OLD BOYS

RESERVES WIN COMFORTABLY

Played at Bristol-road. Bayliss, Roberts and Thomas dropping out of the Reserves led to the side being re-arranged, J. Rea, Hawkins, and Abbey coming into the team, the latter at centre, while Pryor moved to outside half.

Owing to the referee not arriving the game started 20 minutes' late. The visitors had much the better of the first half, their superiority at three-quarter being pronounced, and in the first quarter of an hour the Old Boys' line was crossed twice, no score, however, resulting.

Keeping up the pressure Gloucester A scored through Print and Loveridge, Williams failing with both kicks. Just before the interval Comley got over with a further try following some smart passing, but the effort also went unconverted, J. Rea failing with the kick.

Half-time :

Gloucester A	3 tries
Old Boys	Nil

The Old Boys territorially had more of the play on the resumption, but had difficulty in keeping out the Gloucester A three-quarters, who outpaced their opponents.

Loveridge was responsible for two more tries, and Print also scored, neither of these being converted. Near the end the Old Boys, from a breakaway, looked like scoring, but the movement was checked just in time.

Result :

Gloucester A 6 tries (18 points)

Old Boys Nil

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