

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1924

CITY'S TWICKENHAM RECORD GONE

HARLEQUINS WIN COMFORTABLY

GLOUCESTER WEAK BEHIND THE SCRUM

Gloucester had hoped to field a strong team against the Harlequins at Twickenham this afternoon, even though Voyce was not in [word/words unreadable] but Doctor Taylor and A. Hall could not make the journey and there was some doubt as to filling the scrum half position. W. Collins had expressed his inability to get away from work, and endeavour was made to secure R. Milliner, but the services of the Cinderford captain was required for his club against Stroud. E. Triggs-Herbert filled the vacancy forward and W. Print accompanied the team as reserve forward.

The Harlequins had experienced a very moderate season to date, having suffered seven defeats, but the side selected to oppose Gloucester looked good enough on paper to break the record of reverses sustained from the City. Twickenham, however, has been a lucky ground for Gloucester, and the visitors were encouraged by this fact. There were further changes in the Gloucester team. Sid Brown and Beyers both dropped out, and Tom Voyce turned out at wing three-quarter, while W. Prior took the centre position.

GLOUCESTER

BACK : T. H. Millington.

THREE-QUARTERS : T. Voyce, W. Prior, —. Bruce-Jones, and R. N. Loveridge.

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

FORWARDS : S. Bayliss, S. Duberley, H. Roberts, F. Ford, F. Ayliffe, J. Hemmings, F. Seabrook, and E. Triggs-Herbert.

HARLEQUIN'S

BACK : C. Coates.

THREE-QUARTERS : J. C. Gibbs, Capt. M. A. Green, W. H. Wainwright and R. H. Hamilton-Wickes.

HALF-BACKS : V. G. Davies and W. H. G. Pyke.

FORWARDS : W. W. Wakefield (capt.), H. P. Marshall, A. A. Moller, P. H. Jackson, B. B. Bull, H. F. Joyce, H. V. Brodir, and B. Preston.

THE GAME

The weather was fine, but there was only about 1,000 spectators present, and these seemed lost in the spacious enclosure. The Harlequins started the game, and from the first scrum commenced passing, but Joyce brought Wickes down splendidly. A loose rush by the City forwards gained some thirty yards, but the Harlequins quickly recovered by the aid of a penalty kick.

More kicking took the Londoners closer, and there was an attack on the left wing, but Gibbs knocked on. Joyce cleared with a punt to touch, and later Bruce-Jones cut through smartly, but his pass was intercepted.

Some short passing by the 'Quins gave Wickes possession, and he cross-kicked nicely, but Gloucester saved cleverly. A good rush by the home forwards took the ball right to Gloucester's line, where the City narrowly escaped.

The visitors eased the pressure with neat kicking, but the Harlequins came back, Gibbs punting to touch close in. Here the home halves opened out, and WAINWRIGHT, running strongly, opened the scoring with a good try. Davies failed at goal.

Resuming, Gloucester were again penalised, and the Londoners made good ground with the kick. Then Bruce-Jones broke away in his own half and cross-punted, but the ball [word, unreadable] to touch before Joyce could get to it.

Gloucester, playing with great determination, took up the attack, Collins and Thomas doing good work. The latter broke through [word unreadable] and punted ahead. There was a jump for the ball between Voyce and Wickes, but it rolled away from them. Collins gathered, and sending out a pass to BRUCE-JONES, the latter scored the equalising try. Millington missed the goal points.

Gloucester did well on resuming, and a fine loose rush took the ball right to the line, where a home player carried it over. A scrum followed five yards out, but Gloucester were penalised and the kick brought the necessary relief. Soon afterwards Gloucester were awarded their first penalty, but Millington's shot for goal – a good one – went wide.

Gloucester continued to have the better of the exchanges, the forwards working finely together. The Harlequins, led by Wakefield, [word/words unreadable] a loose dribble, which carried them more than half the length of the ground. Gloucester, however, recovered the lost ground with a similar effort, and mid-field play ensued.

Straight kicking to Coates by the Gloucester players saw the latter find touch with big returns, and the City were pressed in their 25. Neat passing gave Wickes a chance on the wing, but he was pushed to touch-in-goal after a good attempt to cross.

Gloucester came right away from a dangerous position to well past the centre, where the forwards got back and saved. Here the home backs opened out, and DAVIES, cutting up the field, scored a fine try, and the same player converted. This was a splendid effort, but the scorer should have been stopped early in his run.

Restarting, Gloucester put in some good work, but an attempt at passing broke down at Prior. Later Voyce, with a good touch-finder, sent play to the home 25, where the game was being contested at the interval.

HALF-TIME :

HARLEQUINS 1 goal, 1 try

GLOUCESTER 1 try

Gloucester had had quite a fair share of the play in the first half, but there was not sufficient thrust in the attacks behind to take advantage of the good work of the forwards.

The City restarted in deadly earnest, and Davies getting his kick charged down, the visitors gained a good position in their opponents' half. The Harlequins, however, got the ball out, and GIBBS being fed, the left wing dashed ahead. Reaching Millington, he punted over the latter's head and, racing on, touched down for a fine try, which remained unconverted.

The Londoners were now eight points ahead, but Gloucester restarted with vigour, the forwards doing splendidly. The Harlequins, however, saved well. From a drop-out Voyce received and was applauded for handing-off several opponents before being pushed to touch. The City had a possible chance of scoring, but it was not accepted.

The visitors kept up the pressure, and following pretty work on the short side of the scrum by Collins, there was a likely opening, but it did not come off. The forwards rushed over in a body, but the outcome was only a touchdown.

Gloucester continued to have a good deal of the play, but behind the backs could not do much in attack. The Harlequins were far more dangerous behind, though the combination was poor compared with the team of old.

A strong run by Davies and a kick across gave Wickes a chance on the right wing, but the old Cambridge captain was held by Voyce and forced well away from the line.

Vigorous forward play by the City forwards and close following up gave the Harlequins anxiety, and one great burst only just failed for a try. Voyce was now playing centre with Prior on the wing, and the International was prominent with some good stopping.

Play was confined to the Londoners' half, where Bruce-Jones brought off a clever run, beating several opponents, but his inside pass to Voyce was adjudged forward. The Gloucester front made another great effort to score with a combined rush, but they were beaten off. Davies ran well and fed Wickes, who was brought down in attempting to beat Millington. Some loose play ensued, ending in WAKEFIELD securing, and finding an opening, the English captain raced clear and over the line for a try. No goal resulted.

Though well down, Gloucester did not relax their efforts, and some fine forward work deserved reward. Behind, the weakness was apparent, and it was here the City lost chances. The Harlequins passed well at times, and Gibbs and Wickes were both well served, but Voyce's defence was great, Wickes being tackled on one occasion when he looked all over a scorer.

Gloucester were being worsted just now, and after a strong attack by the home team, DAVIES dashed over with a try, which was left unconverted.

Gloucester showed up strongly on the resumption, and after clever work THOMAS beat the defence and scored a capital try, Millington's place for goal hitting the upright. Just before, Loveridge was prominent with a splendid run in which he beat Gibbs, but his pass inside was missed.

RESULT :

HARLEQUINS ... 1 goal, 4 tries (17 pts.)
GLOUCESTER 2 tries (6 pts.)

REMARKS

It was an interesting game, and Gloucester did much better than their defeat by 11 points would indicate. The City forwards were in splendid form, and on the general play had the better of the exchanges all through. But behind the Harlequins had cleverness and dash, and it was here that their superiority was pressed home.

For Gloucester, Bruce-Jones played a capital game, and Voyce did a tremendous amount of work, but there was not sufficient combination to press home the attacks. Millington gave a meritorious display, and of the forwards, Ayliffe, Bayliss, Ford and Duberley were perhaps the pick of a well-balanced pack.

GLOUCESTER A v. WHITECROFT

CITY SECONDS MAINTAIN THEIR WINNING FORM

Some of the Whitecroft players were late in arriving for this match at Kingsholm, and when the City Seconds kicked off at three o'clock there was only a moderate attendance.

Teams : –

Gloucester A : S. Williams; S. Crowther, G. James, L. Abbey, and P. Hogg; W. Hobbs and F. Meadows; A Rea (capt.), F. Hawkins, E. Comley, H. Bartlett, I. Armstrong, H. Franklin, J. Rea, and H. Pitt.

Whitecroft : A. Vaughan; F. Phipps, G. Harris, V. Morgan, and H. Price; A. Hill and A. T. James; M. Morgan (capt.), W. W. Pettly, W. Charles, C. Moore, H. Baker, S. Hook, G. Morgan, and C. Walker.

Referee : Mr. J. Cocks (Cheltenham).

Whitecroft showed themselves as the superior attacking force in the opening stages, H. Price making a good run before Williams brought him down. It was left to Crowther to clear, but the ball came to Price who attempted unsuccessfully to drop a goal.

Vaughan got in two useful punts to touch, enabling Whitecroft to keep on the aggressive. Morgan and Price showed quick handling, but the tackling of the City Seconds lacked nothing in keenness and sureness.

The visitors maintained some advantage in the loose and kept Gloucester in their own half for a long spell till the home forwards set off on a long dribble, and to the general surprise they opened the scoring after having been almost wholly on the defensive. Vaughan was too slow in clearing just outside his own 25, and Franklin snapping up the ball from the melee, sprinted down the line to get over for a try in the corner. This was after 21 minutes. Williams failed with the kick.

This success infused more spirit into the Gloucester form, and James, after some individual work was not far out with an effort to drop a goal. Some of the passing on the home side was erratic. After thirty minutes Franklin secured the ball in a line-out and went through the defence to score another try, which Williams converted. At last a real passing movement originated on Crowther's wing and went right along to Hogg for the latter to gain some ground before being tackled.

Half-time :

Gloucester A 1 goal 1 try
Whitecroft Nil

There was very little to keep the crowd warm in the early stages of the second half, but Hobbs might have made better use of his forwards' heeling from the scrum on several occasions. Sixteen minutes had passed when Gloucester rounded off a short period of attacking by adding to their lead, James dropping a goal from 15 yards.

There was no cleverness shown in subsequent play, except one very long touch-finding kick by Williams, whose skill in that department was not so largely in evidence as usual. Vaughan and Hogg were prominent for samples of good fielding and kicking. Five minutes from the end Bartlett dropped a goal for Gloucester, and Whitecroft replied with a try by M. Morgan, which Vaughan failed to convert.

Result :

Gloucester A ... 3 goals (2d) 1 try (6 pts.)
Whitecroft 1 try (3 pts.)