

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1925

## FOOTBALL

### GLOUCESTER'S DEVON TOUR

#### OPENING MATCH AGAINST THE SERVICES

#### TWO POINTS' VICTORY FOR THE CITY

#### SPLENDID SECOND HALF RECOVERY

#### WILLIAMS INJURED IN CLOSING STAGES

Gloucester opened their Devon tour at the Rectory to-day, when Devonport Services were opposed in the return match. At Kingsholm early in the season the Services won by two dropped goals (8 points) to nil, and were value for their victory.

Gloucester were short of G. Thomas and A. Ball, who could not make the trip, but with the permission of Captain Rowlinson, on behalf of the Cinderford Club Committee, J. Reed accompanied the party.

The Services team was greatly changed from the side that proved victorious at Gloucester, Lieutenants Guthrie, Garrett, and Haward, Sub-Lieut. Lee, and E. R. A. George, who were in the back division, all being replaced.

Teams : –

#### GLOUCESTER

BACK : S. Williams.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. A. Brown, T. Millington, E. H. Hughes, and S. R. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS : R. Milliner and Dr. Taylor.

FORWARDS : A. T. Voyce, F. W. Ayliffe, J. Reed, H. Roberts, S. Duberley, J. Hemmings, F. Ford, and M. Short.

## DEVONPORT SERVICES

BACK : S. Hoskin.

THREE-QUARTERS : Dr. Ward, E. R. A. Evans, Capt. Baker, and Lieut. Vallance.

HALF-BACKS : J. Husson and A. B. Knapman.

FORWARDS : W. G. E. Luddington, E. R. A. Birkett, Corporal Jones, Lieut. Davies, Lieut. Honeyman, W. Paddon, Corporal Thomas, and Private Davies

Referee : Mr. J. Jackson (Camborne).

### THE GAME

The Services kicked off in dull weather before 2,000 spectators. From the first scrum Knapman sent Baker away, and the centre transferred to Ward, who kicked. Williams gathered nicely, but failed to find touch, and Baker again got possession. He ran and cross-kicked, putting Gloucester in danger, but Millington stepped in and found touch.

From a drop out the Gloucester forwards carried matters in a loose dribble till off-side stopped them. Another passing movement by the home threes took play to Gloucester's line, Millington gaining a special cheer for a great touch-finder, the ball going out near the half-way line.

The visiting forwards continued their good work in the loose, and in the face of stiff pressure Evans ballooned the ball when punting. Brown fielded and ran through till pulled down by Hoskin. Williams twice fielded cleanly, but could not find touch with good kicks. So far the Gloucester threes had had little chance.

Several minutes of mid-field play was followed by the Services' scrum half being penalised for off-side, but this brought no advantage. Taylor next claimed a mark, and found touch near the Services' corner. Taylor picked up a low pass from Milliner and gave Crowther a chance, but the winger cross-kicked and the Gloucester forwards were adjudged off-side.

The Services broke away, and Hoskin made a great effort to drop a goal, which was not far out. Husson was not passing too cleanly from the scrum, but Knapman cleverly took one transfer and enabled Vallance to run down the wing. The latter's pass was intercepted, and the same thing happened a minute later.

Taylor, Hughes and Millington collaborated in handling, but Hoskin cleared somewhat fortunately. Baker and Ward had been frequently dangerous, and this wing opened the scoring. Baker sold the "dummy" cleverly and gave WARD a clear path to the line, which he covered at top speed, and touched down with Williams hanging on to him. Baker's effort to convert failed.

The Services exploited the kicking policy with sufficient success to prevent Gloucester setting up any more attacks. Thomas, a Services' forward, was hurt, but quickly resumed.

The home team's scrum work continued to be superior, and but for reckless passing they might have shown better results. Taylor again found touch in the Services' half, and put Gloucester on the offensive. Hoskin cleared with difficulty, but Taylor found the touch-line again near the corner.

Twice Hughes cork-screwed his way through, but his final transfers to Brown were intercepted. Williams failed to get hold of a long punt by Knapman and three Services forwards got away with the ball. Williams recovered quickly and just managed to catch the heel of the forward with the ball. This was bad luck for the Services, who were soon defending again as the result of brilliant touch-finding by Taylor.

Crowther made a good run until Hoskin tore the jersey off his back. Four scrums took place inside the Services' 25, and play became exceedingly desperate. Voyce capped a great run by crossing the line, but the referee adjudged he stepped into touch-in-goal. This was a very near thing.

Brown and Hughes had another sharp but unsuccessful raid, while Williams went near with an effort to drop a goal.

HALF-TIME :  
DEVONPORT SERVICES ..... 1try  
GLOUCESTER ..... Nil

Lack of steadiness at the crucial moment spoilt several chances for Gloucester. The whole of the forwards had done great work in the loose, and also in tackling.

Gloucester resumed before a crowd of 4,000, and almost from the restart they got ahead. Taylor found touch, and from a line-out Millington got possession and forced his way past several opponents before transferring to Hughes. The latter dodged two defenders and passed to VOYCE, who had nothing to do but touch down. Millington converted.

The Services retaliated fiercely, and in stopping a desperate rush Hemmings was severely cut on the right eye and had to leave the field.

A series of scrums near the Gloucester line produced great excitement, and ultimately KNAPMAN worked round the pack and got a capital try, which Luddington failed to convert.

There was no slackening off in pace, and the referee took off his jacket. Hemmings returned with his face in sticking-plaster. Knapman was particularly noticeable for effective work in the loose. On three occasions the Services kicked the ball over the dead ball line.

Ultimately the Gloucester forwards transferred play by a magnificent dribble, and Crowther made a great effort to get through but was forced into touch. A couple of scrums on the home club's line proved awkward until Husson cleared. Milliner fed Taylor in fine style, and later co-operated with Millington to take play into the home team's twenty-five. Knapman and Baker were prominent in finding touch, and took the Services out of several queer corners[*sic*].

Milliner took a leaf out of Husson's book and started following the Services man round the scrum with great success. The referee had twice refused Gloucester appeals for off-side against Husson, so Milliner adopted similar tactics.

Play settled in mid-field for some minutes, both teams getting a breather after their exertions. At last the referee penalised Husson for off-side and drew satirical cheers from the crowd, a section of which was encouraging the City with great gusto.

Gradually Gloucester worked their way into the Services' 25, and the finest movement of the game took place. Milliner whipped the ball finely from the scrum to Taylor, who fed Millington. The latter passed to HUGHES, who ran at tremendous speed to score a try, which Millington failed to convert.

With only two points separating the teams play was contested at a faster pace than before, the Services attacking with great keenness.

Hoskin was a notable figure in clearing the Services' lines in the face of spirited attacks. One of these, engineered by Millington and Hughes, took play from one end of the field to the other, but Crowther kicked ahead after receiving from Hughes, and the ball found touch.

Another splendid burst took part on the City's left wing. Brown crossed in the corner, knocking down the flag, but the referee decreed the Gloucester winger was in touch-in-goal and would not allow the try.

Williams was carried off with an injured leg after fierce exchanges, and Millington took up the full-back position. Hoskin twice landed big kicks into touch, but the Services could not get on terms.

#### RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal, 1 try (8 pts.)

DEVON SERVICES .....2 tries (6 pts.)

## REMARKS

One could not wish to see a more keenly contested game than this, and it was a pity that towards the end the Services should allow excitement to get the better of them, especially as they were behind on points. Knapman was extremely reckless in this respect. The game was not a good one, there being little enough of concerted action, especially in the first half.

The Gloucester forwards played a great game, their breaking up of the Services' attempts to work up attacks being splendidly done. The City three-quarters improved considerably in the second half, Hughes being conspicuous for clever thrusts, which kept the Services' defence on tenterhooks. Taylor was very sound in touch-finding, while Millington fitted in extremely well in the three-quarter line. Williams sprained a muscle badly.

JC