

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1927.

## FOOTBALL

### GLOUCESTER'S FINE PERFORMANCE

WELL MERITED WIN OVER NORTHAMPTON

CITY HANDICAPPED BY LOSS OF LOVERIDGE

SMART ALSO INJURED BUT RETURNS AFTER TWENTY MINUTES

Brilliant weather favoured the visit of the Northampton team to Kingsholm, and with the ground in splendid condition there was every prospect of a fast and open game.

Gloucester made several changes from the side which so narrowly defeated Lydney last week. Boughton made his appearance at full-back; Thompson replaced Abbey at left wing three-quarter; Milliner returned to scrum-half; and McIlwaine, who returned this week from the Argentine, took the place of Foulkes forward. M. Short was originally chosen, but the Forester has decided to join the professional ranks and has finished with Gloucester.

There was a capital attendance – between 3,000 and 4,000 – when the rival teams lined up as follows : –

### GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. N. Loveridge, A. M. David, J. Stephens, and R. C. Thompson.

HALF-BACKS : R. Milliner and Roy James.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby (capt.), F. J. Seabrook, F. Russell, E. Comley, R. Smart, G. McIlwaine, J. Hemming, and H. Pitt.

## NORTHAMPTON

BACK : R. Vaughan.

THREE-QUARTERS : L. Mayes, F. Birch, R. Loverock, and E. E. Haselmere.

HALF-BACKS : R. Jones and E. Hill.

FORWARDS : J. B. Merry (capt.), W. H. Weston, R. Webb, T. Harris, E. Fidgett, H. Griffin, G. A. Pennington, and A. Chandler.

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis.

## THE GAME

The toss favoured Northampton, and Saxby kicked off against the sun, a good return by Vaughan finding touch at the centre. Early on the City forwards broke away in fine style, but they were cleverly robbed of the ball by Vaughan, who got in a splendid kick some 30 yards down the field. Northampton replied but Boughton ran the ball out of play.

Heeling by the visitors saw Jones miss a pass from Hill, and McIlwaine came through well. Picking up he fed Stephens, who side-stepped a couple of opponents, and then yielded to Seabrook. The latter made headway but Thompson was tackled directly he received possession. Play was keen and fast near the centre. Here the Gloucester forwards were penalised for off-side at the scrum. VAUGHAN, with a lovely kick, opened the scoring with a fine goal.

The City resumed, and for a few minutes held the upper hand, the forwards rushing well. Northampton were getting the better of the scrums, but the backs did not make much ground except by kicking.

From a line out Smart broke away finely, and put in a short punt. The forwards were well up and there appeared a chance of a score in the corner, but a visitor sent to touch. In the rush Loveridge was injured and had to leave the field, Hemming coming out as emergency player.

Gloucester, reduced to seven forwards, played up strongly, and Northampton were forced on the defensive. Hemming fielding a kick put in a short dash and pass to McIlwaine, who cleared the immediate opposition and made a fine effort to cross. He slipped and fell, and the ball being secured by the Northampton backs there was some pretty in and out passing. The Gloucester marking was, however, too good, and the situation was saved.

In some loose play Stephens gathered and brought off a fine run, beating several men in fine style. When looking all over a scorer he slipped and fell, and though he got rid of the ball it rolled to touch. Just afterwards the City were awarded a penalty, but Boughton's shot – a good one – went wide of the upright.

In subsequent play Northampton showed up well, their kicking being well-judged. Just now the home tackling was weak, and twice visiting players were allowed to get clear. Centre play followed, until the home backs were set going by Milliner. The ball was got across to Thompson, who ran and cross-punted, but the kick was charged down. The effort led to Gloucester gaining a footing in their opponents' half, but off-side gave the East Midlands a penalty. Boughton, however, returned Vaughan's kick with interest.

Carrying a scrum the City forwards swept the opposition aside, and Hill and Vaughan both having kicks charged down, the ball went over the line, where PITT fell on it and scored behind the posts. James missed the easy place-kick, and the teams were level.

Gloucester, encouraged by this success, played up with renewed energy, and Northampton's defence was tested. Saxby, with a strong effort, ran clear, but was collared by Vaughan, and with no one in immediate attendance a fine opportunity was lost.

Gloucester, with handling, looked dangerous, but a transfer was missed, and Merry came away to Boughton, who checked cleverly with the aid of McIlwaine. Loveridge came back, but almost immediately he was in the wars again and had to retire.

Resuming, Gloucester maintained the upper hand, being aided by a couple of free kicks. From a drop for goal by Stephens the ball went behind, but Jones ran out pluckily and punted to Boughton. The latter made a big kick across, and the City forwards were well on the ball, but they failed to take advantage of the opening. The City persevered, and McIlwaine led the forwards in a desperate rush for the line. The visiting defence looked certain to be pierced, but the position was saved under the goal posts.

Hemming and Thompson later shone in some good combination for Gloucester, but big kicking brought relief to the visitors, and the home end was visited. Boughton was twice called upon, but the City custodian cleared his lines well, and later Saxby eased off dangerous pressure with a good kick. At the interval play was at midfield.

HALF-TIME :  
GLOUCESTER ..... 1 try  
NORTHAMPTON ..... 1 goal (p)

Despite the loss of Loveridge, Gloucester had had the better of the play, and one or two strong attacking movements should have yielded better results.

Northampton re-started, and opening well play was pretty evenly contested. Once the Gloucester forwards broke away beautifully, but they lost control, and Vaughan picking up, came through and sent to touch nicely. In a scrummage, which was broken up quickly, Smart was laid out and had to be carried off. The Gloucester forwards were thus reduced to six – a serious handicap.

The City, however, were not discouraged, and, playing well together, they took up the attack strongly. From a cross-kick by Hemming the home team made headway, and the ball being kicked over the line wide out, THOMPSON raced up and touched down for a try amidst great enthusiasm. Boughton was entrusted with the shot at goal, and hit the upright.

On the restart Gloucester again assumed the aggressive, the weakened forwards putting up a splendid fight against superior numbers. Once the forwards, led by Saxby, went through in a body but were held up close to the line. A charged-down kick brought relief to Northampton, and Jones, picking up, started passing. Birch was well away, but James effected a great tackle. Northampton made further progress, but they were sent back, being aided by a fine touch-finder by Boughton.

Smart now returned and the battle waged furiously. The ball travelled up and down the field at a fast pace, but it was mostly with the forwards. The Gloucester men were doing splendidly in the loose but there was not much heeling on either side. A fine kick by Stephens found touch ten yards from the Northampton line, where Gloucester tried hard to score. A punt out went to Boughton, who ran across and fed Thompson, but the latter was collared and lost the ball. Mayes dribbled away, but was fetched back.

A great punt by Boughton put Gloucester well down, and with a loose burst, Seabrook dribbled finely, the City only just missing a try. Northampton eased the pressure slightly, but Gloucester came back, David executing a marvellous run, beating man after man. He was eventually tackled, but threw a pass to McIlwaine, who travelled a few yards and sent to STEPHENS. The latter ran strongly, and went round to score near the posts, but Boughton could not add the major points. So far in this half Gloucester had nearly all the play, and were full value for their lead.

On the resumption the Northampton backs were well served by Jones, and after clever handling Mayes was given possession. The wing man, however, stepped into touch just inside the 25 line. A long flying kick by James sent the ball well down to Vaughan, who was pressed by Pitt and James. His kick went straight up in the air, and a Gloucester man fielding there was a glorious opening. A pass inside, however, was captured by Loverock, who cleared effectively – a lucky get-out. Northampton did better after this, but their attacks, though started well, did not develop.

Fine kicking by Boughton gave Gloucester territorial advantage again, and a pretty effort by Milliner deserved reward in the left corner.

Just before the end Northampton were awarded a penalty kick practically on their goal-line. Jones ventured on the short punt, and, re-gathering, initiated a bout of passing. The ball was handled cleverly, and the movement covered the whole length of the ground, but at the finish something went wrong and nothing resulted.

#### RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ..... 3 tries (9 points)  
NORTHAMPTON ..... 1 goal (p) (3 points)

#### REMARKS

Considering Gloucester's severe handicap – Loveridge was off the field for three parts of the game, and Smart for twenty minutes – it was a remarkable victory this afternoon. The City, however, fully merited their triumph, and the form to-day was a vast improvement all round. And nowhere more than forward. Northampton possessed a very hefty pack, but the East Midlanders were not only worried but outplayed at times by the City players, who were magnificent in the loose. And this superiority was in evidence even when Gloucester were only playing six against eight.

McIlwaine's inclusion in the home team livened up the whole pack, and the Cambridge Blue was greatly in evidence in all the attacking movements. Saxby, full of energy, set his men a splendid example in forcefulness and determination, and how well they responded the result bears tribute.

Seabrook, as usual, was a host in himself in footwork, and, quick to break up from the scrum, was, with McIlwaine and Saxby, of great help to the backs in defence. Pitt and Russell rendered solid service in the scrums, and Hemming provided a useful substitute for Loveridge at wing three-quarter after the vice-captain's enforced retirement.

Milliner's recall was justified at outside half, for besides doing a lot of spoiling and defensive work he led up to one or two smart attacking moves. James at times was not happy in his fielding, but otherwise made a good show and kicked splendidly. At three-quarter David made the most spectacular run of the afternoon, and the old Oxonian was always sound and reliable in anything he undertook. Stephens came into the picture with several strong efforts, and he had the opposition beaten on numerous occasions. Thompson displayed a nice sense of anticipation when he scored his tries, and all round gave the impression that he should get an extended trial on the left wing.

The Gloucester line should speed up their handling, and this should come with regular practice. Loveridge's mishap – he is one of the unluckiest of players – was most unfortunate, but it is hoped it will not keep him out of the field for any length of time. He is suffering with a torn ligament in the shoulder.

Boughton played with all the confidence of the experienced footballer, and his performance stood out as one of the features of the game. His fielding was perfect, and he did some big kicking with either foot; whilst he displayed enterprise and judgment which denoted football sense. Vaughan accomplished some good things at full back for Northampton, and twice saved almost certain scores by robbing the Gloucester forwards of the ball when all seemed lost for his side. On other occasions, however, the visiting custodian was a trifle uncertain.

Northampton were rather disappointing forward considering the weight and experience in the pack. They had the better of the heeling, but Hill, at scrum half, was too closely watched by Milliner to do much in the way of opening out. Jones, the Welsh International, was nippy in the position of fly-half, but the combination behind was erratic, though now and again the men swung the ball about cleverly, and Gloucester had one or two anxious moments. Birch, who appeared in a trial for England last season, was outshone by Loverock, and of the wings Mayes, on the day's play, was more effective than Haselmere, the old Leicester player.

Next week's matches : Thursday, v. Bristol, at Kingsholm (for charities); Saturday, v. Moseley, at Kingsholm.

With reference to my note in regard to the migration of M. Short to the North, my Coleford correspondent telephoned this afternoon that he had had a personal interview with the Gloucester and County forward. It appears he has not definitely signed on for Hull. He is also in negotiation with Oldham, and it is a question of terms with the two clubs. Short is asking for £300 from Oldham, and he received a communication this morning that the club officials were meeting this afternoon, and they would notify him of their decision later in the evening.

Failing Oldham's agreeing to the terms, Short will join the Hull Club, and will leave Berry Hill on Monday. Short is 24 years of age, and weights between 13 and 14 stone. He expressed his regret at severing his connection with Gloucester, but the bad state of the coal industry in the Forest – he is a miner – influenced him more than anything else in forfeiting his amateur status. If Short goes to Oldham he will have an old clubmate in J. Read, who has done wonderfully well with the Lancashire club.

W.B.

JC