

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1927

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER'S FIFTH VICTORY

ATTRACTIVE FOOTBALL AT KINGSHOLM

MOSELEY BACKS FAST AND CLEVER BUT UNLUCKY

Gloucester were engaged in their fifth match of the season to-day at Kingsholm, when they had Moseley as visitors. The Midlanders made a bad start at Bradford last week, suffering a heavy defeat, but had hopes of making a far better showing this afternoon. Last season each club won at home.

With the exception of G. McIlwaine who rested on the suggestion of the Cambridge University captain, Gloucester played the same team which defeated Bristol on Thursday. Moseley enjoyed the assistance of D. Drysdale, the Scottish International full-back, who played at centre three-quarter.

The weather turned fine, and the ground had recovered splendidly from the overnight drenching. There was only a moderate attendance at the start of the game.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. C. Thompson, A. M. David, J. Stephens, and L. Abbey.

HALF-BACKS : R. Milliner and Roy James.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby (capt.), A. T. Voyce, F. J. Seabrook, H. Pitt, F. Russell, A. Comley, T. Wadley, and J. Hemming.

MOSELEY

BACK : J. Pritchard.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. Inglis, D. Linn, D. Byrne, D. Drysdale, and R. H. Orcutt.

HALF-BACKS : A. C. Long and A. Pratt.

FORWARDS : P. S. Jenkins, H. E. Marwick, C. J. Byrne, B. Lewis, W. M. Kendall, H. H. Brookes, and T. A. Roper.

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

THE GAME

Moseley played five three-quarters. Gloucester started the game, but an early failure to accept a pass by James let the visitors in, Stephens saving at a dangerous moment. Seabrook led a good dribble by the City forwards, but they were checked and Orcutt sent to the home 25 with a fine screw-kick. Moseley opened out the game cleverly, but with the wing man well placed the final pass went astray. A dodgy run by Inglis put Gloucester on the defensive, but Saxby saved by making his mark. Then with a clever left-foot kick Drysdale narrowly missed dropping a goal.

Weak tackling by Gloucester allowed the Moseley backs to make headway, and the City's play generally was very scrappy. The home forwards put in some good footwork, but in the scrums Gloucester were beaten for possession, despite the extra man in the ranks. Play was bright and open, Moseley shining in some neat work, but players at times appeared too anxious to get rid of the ball.

Seabrook twice broke away with dribbles, but the movements were checked on the quarter line. Good kicking brought play to the centre, but again the home forwards rushed back, Saxby and Hemming being prominent. Pritchard only partially checked, but colleagues got back and helped him out. Splendid kicks by Drysdale and Inglis enabled Moseley to clear their lines, and the game waxed at mid-field.

Saxby was again distinguished in the loose, which gained the City some 20 yards, but the ground was lost by faulty play later. Picking up in the loose a visiting forward started passing, and Orcutt was only pushed to touch in the nick of time.

Gloucester's form so far was disappointing except for the loose work. Moseley continually handled, and with the home tackling sadly at fault, the City were severely tested.

A great run by Linn gave the Midlanders a fine opening, but Long missed his pass with a "walk" over the line.

Moseley again attacked hotly, but missed passes spoiled some clever movements. Then Gloucester got the ball out, and the ball came to Stephens, who ran strongly and fed Thompson. The latter dashed down touch, but his transfer inside was knocked away by an opponent.

The City made a sharp attack, but they were beaten off, and Long, with a neat punt, found touch near the centre.

A rush by the home forwards promised well, but they were pulled up in time. Gloucester did a little better in subsequent play, and Milliner opening out, Stephens brought off a clever run, beating Drysdale and other opponents neatly and working out a fine opening. On reaching Pritchard he yielded to JAMES, who went over near the posts. Boughton missed the easy place kick.

Resuming, Saxby made a good run and pass, but a subsequent transfer went astray, and Inglis came along and kicked ahead. Boughton came up and took a flying kick and missed and there was an open goal, but Milliner got back and cleared – a fortunate get-out.

Twice Moseley broke away with neat handling, but Orcutt was upset by David. James came into the picture with a good run, but there was no one in support, and he was forced to kick. Moseley came again, play being exceptionally fast.

Following some loose play, Long cross-kicked for Moseley, but Abbey captured the ball and, beating Orcutt, forged ahead. He was held, but passed to David, who had come up on the outside, and the Old Oxonian dashed away. Giving the "dummy" nicely, he made further progress, and at the right moment returned to ABBEY, who completed a fine movement by scoring a good try. Again Boughton failed to convert. Soon after the interval was called.

HALF-TIME :
GLOUCESTER 2 tries
MOSELEY Nil

Though Gloucester held a six points' lead and the two tries were splendid efforts – Moseley had played the more attractive football, and only failure to handle accurately at critical moments lost two or three tries.

Gloucester, aided by strong forward play, attacked immediately after the kick-off, and the Moseley defence had a warm time in the corner. From a high punt by James the ball went over the line, and Pritchard touched down. From the drop out the Moseley backs were sent away, but an inside pass from Inglis went astray.

David and James had changed places, and the latter was temporarily laid out. Continuing, Gloucester gained a footing in their opponents' half, but the Midlanders came away with passing. Orcutt tried hard to get clear, but being pressed he threw inside, and the ball was lost.

The Moseley seven were putting plenty of vim into their work, and in the scrums they beat the home men for possession. A wild pass by Pratt lost ground, and later a mistake by Long saw David gather and go through nicely. He, however, slipped, with a good position gained, and was tackled.

Moseley had hard work to maintain their line, but good kicking and a dash by Orcutt changed the position. The latter ran hard and punted over Boughton's head, but James had got back and put in a beautiful relief kick.

An attack on the right by the Midlanders was broken up by good tackling, and then Gloucester took up the running. From a line-out Saxby secured, and after a strong burst gave to Pitt. The latter progressed and handed at the right moment to THOMPSON, who sprinted hard and touched down wide out. Seabrook this time essayed the shot at goal, but met with no better success than Boughton.

Fast play by the Moseley backs tested the home defence, but the visitors could not get any luck. For off-side by Milliner, Drysdale had a place for goal from a penalty, but made a poor kick, and Boughton punted out to the centre. The ball just failed to find touch, and Inglis ran round and passed to Orcutt, but the latter was stopped. Gloucester shifted operations to the Moseley end, where there was some clever combination, but nothing tangible resulted. Voyce and James later had fruitless drops at goal.

The game was continued at a good pace, and both sides displayed clever tactics, but the defence prevailed. Once Saxby broke away and secured a nice opening. A pass went to Hemming, who tried hard to cover the remaining distance, but just failed, being bored to touch.

Russell, who had been off for ten minutes, returned, and a little later a Moseley forward went off for attention. Gloucester now attacked strongly, and twice Milliner was nearly through from a scrum ten yards outside. The City kept up the attack, and after Abbey had just missed a corner try, JAMES, with a beautiful effort in which he side-stepped Bryne and Pritchard in remarkable style, scored under the posts. J. Stephens added the goal points and Gloucester led by 14 points.

Despite their position Moseley resumed pluckily, and after beating off a Gloucester arrack, they took advantage of some loose play. Byrne kicked ahead, Boughton made the fatal error of taking a flying kick, missed the ball completely and left an open line. BYRNE and another dribbled on and over the line, and the former was credited with a try which Drysdale converted.

Gloucester had the better of the exchanges at the resumption, but play was rather scrappy. There was a slight delay owing to an injury to Pratt, but he was able to resume. Play was in the Moseley half till the end, but nothing further was done.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal 3 tries (14 points)
Moseley 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS

Gloucester recorded a fairly substantial victory this afternoon but the score by no means indicated the run of the game. All the City's tries were clever efforts, in which combination and individual skill were displayed, but Moseley, on the whole, played the more attractive football and it was sheer hard luck on several occasions that they failed to beat the defence. The Gloucester team took a long time to settle down, and had the visitors been able to make full use of their chances the match would probably have been decided in the first half hour.

Though only playing seven forwards, the Moseley pack frequently controlled the ball in the scrums; the half-backs initiated numerous bouts of passing, and up to a point the movements were splendidly carried out. But failure to finish was sadly in evidence, and some glorious chances were lost. Moseley went down fighting to the last, and their score in the closing stages was received with encouraging applause.

The football served up was delightfully open and the Moseley players gave the home men a lesson in how to get the ball away. Gloucester certainly profited later in the game, and the forwards showed a real appreciation of what the spectators want in the second half.

It was a hard, keen and fast game, in which penalty kicks were few and far between. The City forwards again displayed their best work in loose rushes, and here Seabrook, Saxby, Hemming and Wadley were very distinguished. The captain worked untiringly all through, and was one of the best men in the open.

At times the tackling of the home players was very slack, and this is a matter that will have to be seriously attended to. Voyce, at times, showed up prominently, but is not up to form. The Moseley seven put up a keen and plucky opposition, with Jenkins, Marwick, Kendall, and C. Bryne the most noticeable.

Outside the scrum Moseley had a fast and clever set, but I question if they would not have done better with the ordinary formation. Long and Pratt concentrated on opening out with an occasional individual flash, and though Milliner spoiled some well-intentioned efforts a number of movements were well started.

Of the centres, Drysdale kicked strongly, but did not get much chance owing to David's close marking. Linn and D. Bryne ran well at times, and Inglis and Orcutt, on the respective wings, played with plenty of dash. A little more care in directing transfers at the finish would have brought better results to the line.

The Gloucester back division were not so nippy or enterprising as their opponents, but the movements which led up to the four scores were splendidly carried through. At the interval David and James changed places and the move was attended with distinct success, James showing glimpses of his true form. His try was a beauty, and the defence was left practically standing.

Stephens led up to James' first try, and here again the Moseley backs – and Drysdale was one of them – was slipped very easily by the clever side-stepping of the Old Widden boy. Thompson and Abbey both did smart work on the wings, though the latter found Orcutt too good for him occasionally.

At full-back Boughton was not so good to-day, and that one fatal error of his which led to the Moseley score was a bad mistake. He attempted a similar policy against Bristol on Thursday, and he should realise at once that fly-kicking is too risky in Rugby football. Pritchard played soundly for Moseley and made some good clearances.

Next week's matches : Wednesday, Gloucester v. Cinderford,
at Kingsholm. Saturday : Gloucester v. Guy's Hospital, at Honor Oak.

JC