

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1927

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER STILL UNBEATEN

A DRAW AT HONOR OAK

CITY OPEN IN SENSATIONAL FASHION

EXCELLENT GAME DESPITE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Gloucester, with a record of six successive victories, appeared at Honor Oak this afternoon for their annual fixture with Guy's Hospital, and with a representative team the City had great hopes of obtaining their first win over the Hospital in London.

Guy's had played two matches, losing at Coventry a fortnight ago, and gaining a narrow victory over Catford Bridge last week.

Last season Gloucester won at Kingsholm by 19 points to 3, the return game being cancelled owing to the ground being unplayable.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : L. Abbey, Roy James, J. Stephens, and R. C. Thompson.

HALF-BACKS : R. Milliner and A. M. David.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby, A. T. Voyce, F. J. Seabrook, J. Hemming, T. Wadley, G. Foulkes, A. Comley, G. McIlwaine.

GUY'S HOSPITAL

BACK : V. G. Boyle.

THREE-QUARTERS : T. G. Robinson, D. F. Ryan, F. H. B. Spence, A. J. D. Lewis.

HALF-BACKS : T. O. Garland and V. R. Preen.

FORWARDS : F. J. R. Popplewell, W. H. Myburgh, G. G. Cameron, B. G. Scholefield, John Durr, A. Simpson-Smith, C. D. Malone, and J. H. Cullinan.

Referee : Mr. H. B. Letter.

Previous to the match the Gloucester team visited the Strand Theatre and placed a laurel wreath from the Club on the portrait of the late Mr. Arthur Bouchier in the vestibule, "In memory of a dear friend and generous supporter."

Conditions were very unpleasant. Heavy rain fell all the morning, and a strong wind blew across the ground. With one exception Guy's had the same team which won the Hospital Cup last season.

THE GAME

Guy's kicked off, and the game opened sensationally. Preen fumbled a pass from the first scrum, McIlwaine, Hemming and Voyce dribbled right through and over the line, HEMMING scoring a good try. Broughton landed a magnificent goal against the wind, and Gloucester were five points up.

Encouraged by this early success, the City attacked strongly again on the restart, and Guy's were lucky in gaining touch for a minor. A strong burst by Voyce nearly pushed McIlwaine over in the next minute, and Gloucester forced another minor from a kick by James.

The City were having all the play just now, and the Hospital were hard pressed. James and Abbey with smart work kept Guy's strictly on the defensive, but the work for the most part was with the forwards.

With a strong rush Guy's eased the pressure, and Gloucester came back with footwork and the home team, being penalised for off-side, BOUGHTON landed a good goal.

From the restart Guy's invaded the Gloucester half for the first time, and a useful loose rush took play inside the City's 25. Gloucester heeled, but the ball was lost and CAMERON, picking up, struggled over the line and scored. Durr failed at goal.

Gloucester went right away from the kick-off, and Guy's were placed on the defensive. From a penalty kick Milliner received and started passing, but it broke down and the home forwards gathered and ran back.

Centre play followed, but Gloucester spoilt a good movement by getting off-side. A rousing forward burst by Guy's was not checked until the visitors' end was reached, the players being unable to keep a foothold in their efforts to check.

The Hospital got the ball away from the ensuing scrum, but a knock-on spoilt a possible opening. Gloucester were rushed in a couple of loose scrums, and Guy's were dangerous.

A penalty to Gloucester brought relief but the City could not maintain their position and were again forced back. Stephens broke up a strong attack with some sound tackling, and then a Gloucester attack promised well.

A big kick, however, was carried over the line for a minor. Keen forward play followed the drop out. The game at length opened out and Thompson had a chance on the right. He ran hard and well but succumbed to a tackle by Robinson.

Gloucester went close from the subsequent scrum and Stephens tried to burst through but was upset. Gloucester, however, got another minor, Stephens just being beaten in the touch for the ball.

Clever play by James, who slipped the defence, gave Gloucester a good attacking position but nothing tangible resulted. Some good handling by Guy's covered thirty yards, but the final transfer was not accepted.

Loose dribbling was indulged in by both sides and play was very fast. A big effort by Guy's carried them close and clever passing saw Lewis race for the corner and he was stopped in time by Boughton and another.

Half-time :

GLOUCESTER 2 goals (1p)
GUY'S HOSPITAL 1 try

Gloucester on the run of the game should have crossed over with a bigger lead. Though five minutes before the interval Guy's were very dangerous, and only sound defence kept the Gloucester line intact.

From the restart Guy's dribbled through and kicked to Boughton, who gathered well and found touch. From another punt Boughton received but in attempting to beat an opponent, he was collared and the Hospital were dangerous.

More footwork in which Stephens showed to advantage took Gloucester clear and later there was a movement on the right in which Abbey and Stephens shone which looked like producing a try, but Boyle saved in daring style.

Guy's changed the position with dashing loose work and the game was contested at the centre.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 2 goals (1p) (8 pts.)
GUY'S HOSPITAL 1 goal, 1 try (8 pts.)

GLOUCESTER A. v. HEREFORD
CITY SECONDS A MUCH SUPERIOR SIDE
HOME BACKS IN GOOD FORM

Gloucester A made their first appearance at Kingsholm on Saturday, when Hereford provided the opposition. The visitors had not won a match so far and were not strongly represented, Ted Morgan (outside half) being a prominent absentee owing to injuries.

A south-westerly wind with much rain made the conditions uncomfortable, but there were a good few spectators at the start.

Teams : –

Gloucester A : A. W. Lewis; A. Hough, T. Stephens, F. Benbow and S. R. Crowther; E. Goodwin and D. Meadows; A. Rea (capt.), H. Pitt, R. Smart, H. J. Ferris, R. Holford, T. East, A. Danks, and T. Hiam.

Hereford : D. T. L. Evans; P. Griffiths, A. D. Allen, F. N. Groom, E. C. Turner; E. N. Smale, and V. M. Evans; B. G. Farrow, L. S. Vail, D. Magrath, T. H. Bond, L. G. Buchanan, G. C. Everard, G. H. Chambers, I. J. Yorath.

Referee : Mr. J. Cox (Cheltenham).

Turner, Allen and Buchanan had not turned up when the teams fielded 25 minutes late. The visitors found one substitute on the ground and turned out with thirteen players. This handicapped the visitors, who looked like having a strenuous time.

Within a couple of minutes a round of good passing went along the Gloucester line of three's to Hough, who ran well from just over the half-way line, beat three opponents, and crossed near the corner, Benbow failing to convert.

In the scrums which followed Gloucester got the ball out frequently and some good movements were started, only to fail by reckless kicking or wild passing. The ball became very slippery, though the players showed a good deal of inclination to handle in spite of the conditions.

Meadows and Hough were responsible for some clever touches though Hereford did not allow the City to get too strong a grip of the game. After the visitors had made a brief visit to the Gloucester 25 the home forwards took part in a long rush to the vicinity of the Hereford goal, where the visitors were penalised and Benbow kicked a penalty goal.

From the re-start the visitors got into an attacking position and were luckily rewarded with a try. Yorath intercepted a pass near the Gloucester 25 and had a clear passage to the line, which he crossed, Magrath succeeding in converting the try.

Hough replied with a good run in which he got over the line and was recalled for stepping into touch. A minute later following good work by Meadows, he swerved past the defence and scored a good try, which Benbow converted with a splendid kick.

Goodwin followed with another unconverted try.

Another splendid run by Hough at top speed, in which he evaded several attempted tackles, brought a good try which Stephens could not convert. He repeated the run a minute later and planted the ball behind the posts for Stephens to convert.

Half-time :

Gloucester A ...	3 goals (1p)	4 tries (25 pts.)
Hereford	1 goal	(5 pts.)

Meadows signalled the opening of the second half by cleverly side-stepping three opponents after the ball had come from the scrum on the Hereford 25, the City stand-off half finishing off the movement by crossing for Benbow to convert.

Although the home side continued to show more quickness and better conception of tactics, the marking of the visitors improved. This enabled them to take a hand in attacking, and after a forward rush Yorath got an unconverted try.

The City went further ahead when East obtained a try, which Smart converted. The total was brought to 40 points when Benbow crossed for Smart to majorise.

Result :

Gloucester A ... 6 goals (1p), 4 tries (40 pts.)

Hereford 1 goal 1 try (8 pts.)

REMARKS

Lack of training as well as an inferiority to their opponents in ability, accounted for the heaviness of the defeat which Hereford received. Gloucester were decidedly the better team all round, one of the chief assets of the back division being greater pace.

There was a refreshing amount of handling in the game in spite of the wet ball. Gloucester's young players shaped well and the supporters will be better able to judge of the merits of some of the newer reserves when they have sterner stuff to meet than the Hereford fifteen which turned out in this game.

JC