

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1927

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER 22 PTS.; ST. THOMAS' HOSPITAL 9 PTS.

BRIGHT, OPEN FOOTBALL AT KINGSHOLM

CITY'S SECOND HALF IMPROVEMENT

St. Thomas's, winners of the Hospital Cup two seasons ago, were visitors to Kingsholm to-day for the one meeting between the teams. Gloucester made radical changes from the side beaten by Cardiff, only four of the forwards (Saxby, Hall, East and Hemming) who opposed the Welshmen being retained. Both wing three-quarters (Abbey and Crowther) were also dropped, and James was moved from centre to the outside position.

David reverted to his old place in the three-quarter line, and D. Meadows, who made such a promising débüt against Cinderford, partnered Milliner at half-back. A newcomer, J. K. Evans, who has played for Newport and the Old Leysians, appeared in the City front. The visitors brought a representative side.

Teams : —

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. N. Loveridge, A. M. David, J. Stephens, and Roy James.

HALF-BACKS : R. Milliner and Don Meadows.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby (capt.), A. T. Voyce, J. Hemming, R. Smart, A. Comley, A. Hall, N. East, and J. K. Evans.

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL

BACK : N. M. Jerram.

THREE-QUARTERS : W. Purvis, J. H. Beilby, A. K. Miller, and N. Miller.

HALF-BACKS : K. M. Robertson and C. W. Walker (capt.).

FORWARDS : J. G. Wigley, R. A. Wiener, C. B. Drew, A. B. Marshall, E. J. Goldsmith, C. I. Tuckett, T. E. Mills, and D. S. Valentine.

Referee : Mr. H. C. Barnes.

THE GAME

The visitors kicked off before an attendance of about 3,000, and early on Gloucester opened a strong attack. The ball was picked up in the loose and got across to James, who kicked ahead. The home forwards dribbled through and sent over the line, but Stephens was just beaten in the touch for the ball.

Following the drop out the Hospital showed smart play behind, and A. Miller burst through, but a good tackle saved the situation. Heeling by the home forwards saw Milliner open out, and David cut through beautifully. Reaching Jerram he passed to Loveridge, who was, however, pulled down from behind by N. Miller. Play was very fast, both sides giving the ball air. From inside their 25 the Hospital started passing, and Beilby ran well until faced by Boughton. His pass to Purvis, however, was knocked on, and a fine opening was lost.

Gloucester replied with a smart effort by James and Stephens, the latter getting a re-pass, but falling to a good tackle. Hall, from a line out, made good headway before being checked, but the ball went astray, and was sent to touch. A screw punt by Milliner put Gloucester close, and James, from a pass by Meadows, attempted a dash through, but was overwhelmed by numbers. The City worked hard for a score, but they were foiled and a visitor punted out to Boughton, who returned with a fine, left-foot kick to touch.

The Hospital again cleared effectively, N. Miller putting in a strong run, in the course of which he shook off a tackle by David and secured a good opening. Again, however, the pass went astray. Good work by Meadows put the Hospital on the defensive, but useful kicks brought them out of danger, and Boughton misfielding they reached the home half. Loveridge got round and cleared, but Gloucester were beaten back. Clever work by N. Miller gave them ground, but Loveridge returned with a short run. He was collared, and Miller securing handed to a forward, who transferred to VALENTINE, for the latter to run over and score a good try. Marshall failed at goal.

Gloucester resumed, and some fast and clever play was witnessed at the centre. A dribble by James gained 20 yards, and later Stephens, with well-judged kicks, kept play in the Hospital half. The City forwards rushed nicely, but in the loose they lost possession, and Walker securing sent to touch at mid-field. Here the Hospital were penalised, and Saxby had a long shot for goal, a fine attempt going just wide.

Following the drop-out, Milliner opened out twice in quick succession, but the tackling was too good, and little ground was made. Clever work followed by Milliner, who kicked away from a scrum, picked up and fed Meadows. David and Stephens were next placed in possession, and there was a splendid chance for James, but the sharp pass was not accepted, and the Hospital line escaped. Gloucester were having all the play just now, but the attacks lacked finish, and this, coupled with keen tackling, kept the City out.

More good footwork by Milliner gave Gloucester a position ten yards from the line, but in some loose play a visitor cleared with a flying kick. From a cross-punt the City had a possible opening, but the ball bounced awkwardly for David and Loveridge. Next Meadows came in for loud applause for a brilliant solo dribble, the recruit beating several men with deft touches with his foot. He took the ball to the full back, where he was stopped. Gloucester kept on the aggressive, and, the Hospital being penalised, BOUGHTON landed a penalty goal from outside the 25-line, thus placing the teams level.

Gloucester kept things moving on the resumption, and David once made a brilliant cut-through, but in attempting to cut past the full back he was stopped a few yards from the line. Loveridge tried hard to clear the defenders on the right just afterwards, but was brought down in time.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (p)
HOSPITAL 1 try

The football had been keen and hard, with plenty of open play, and on the run of the game the scoring at the interval fairly represented the merits of the rival teams. Saxby re-started with a big kick which went to the line, but Jerram pluckily ran out and punted to touch. Some close forward work followed with honours even. Saxby left the field just now, and Gloucester continued with seven forwards.

Some Gloucester passing went wrong, and Beilby picking up ran and punted down the field. Boughton had to run back to gather, but he failed to pick up, and N. MILLER kicked on and over the line. He beat Boughton for the touch and was awarded a try, which Jerram converted, giving the Hospital a five points lead.

Gloucester were not long in equalising. After some passing David cross-punted, and Stephens securing he passed to Hall, who gave up to JAMES. The latter got away at full speed, and cutting inside the full back raced round and scored a fine try. Boughton converted.

Gloucester showed up strongly on the restart, and the Hospital were forced to defend. After a failure to get through on the right play veered to the left, where a series of exchanges took the City close. Meadows apparently passed forward, but the referee passed it, and in a loose scramble VOYCE was credited with a try. Boughton landed a good goal, and the City led for the first time in the match.

Saxby, who had returned, recovered the ball from the kick-off, and came through with a strong run almost up to the full-back when he passed, but the transfer was not accepted.

Stephens tried a solo effort, but was pulled down, and then a visitor kicked through and down to Boughton, who hesitated to come up, and finally had to run back to get the ball to touch. David, with a sharp bit of work, brought Gloucester relief, and the City went to the other end, Comley being to the fore with good footwork. The Hospital, however, displayed a stout defence and kept their line intact. A big forward rush took Gloucester up to the line, but a pick up and pass at the critical moment went wide of everyone and rolled into touch.

A little later a punt to the right corner by Stephens just failed to allow of Loveridge to get up in time. The Hospital were overpowered in subsequent play, which was confined to their half. Boughton made a good mark, and short punting, gathered and started passing. A cross-kick came to the centre of the field, where East, Saxby, Stephens, and JAMES in turn handled, for the wing man to score his second try. This time Boughton failed to convert.

Gloucester had shown dash and determination for the last ten minutes, and the forwards were better together all-round. The Hospital still exhibited a strong defence, but they were beaten in general play. A huge punt by Boughton found touch in the Hospital 25, and from the throw-out Smart received, broke away and sent EAST over with a try in the corner. Boughton missed the goal kick, but Gloucester were well ahead now, 19–8.

More big kicking by Boughton was a feature of the play on the resumption, and Gloucester went over the line in a rush, Saxby touching down, but he was ruled off-side and a penalty was given. Gloucester immediately after were awarded a penalty, but Boughton could not cover the cross-bar. Stephens and James, and later Stephens[*sic*] with a brilliant individual run distinguished themselves, the Hospital defenders being kept well employed.

Gloucester kept up the offensive, and an effort by Stephens led to JAMES scoring his third try, but it remained unconverted. Soon afterwards the end arrived.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ... 3 goals (1p), 3 tries (22 points)
HOSPITAL 1 goal 1 try (8 points)

REMARKS

Gloucester recorded a substantial victory this afternoon, thanks to a second-half recovery. But the Hospital were not out-played to the extent the scoring suggests, and the City had to work desperately hard for all their points. On both sides a lot of clever work went unrewarded, and in this respect the Hospital threw away several good chances of scoring in the first half.

There was an improvement generally in the play of the Gloucester team, though it was not until the game was well in progress that the side really got together. The forwards did more heeling this afternoon than in previous matches, and there was a distinct effort made to get the ball away from the loose. There is, however, still room for improvement.

The pack, as a whole, displayed better cohesion and more enterprise, and though finish was required on several occasions the right idea was there. With the County Championship matches coming along the front will be disturbed, though not to the extent as in previous years.

One, however, would like to have seen to-day's eight kept together for a few games in order to see what the men could really accomplish. East, who got a second chance, confirmed the good impression he created against Cardiff, and Evans proved to be a real worker in the scrums and tireless in the open. Smart, too, distinguished himself, and Comley was several times noticeable for clever work.

Saxby, who played in the second half with his head bandaged, fully maintained his form. He tackled keenly, was always on the ball, and that one run of his was as good as anything seen during the afternoon. Voyce played his best game so far, and Hemming and Hall did capital work in the line out. The veteran kept going wonderfully well, and is a marvel for his age.

At half-back, Milliner and Meadows had a good understanding, and the ex-Schoolboy International pleased everyone with his showing. Only once did I observe Meadows fail to take his pass, and he had all sorts of transfers to deal with. Safe handling is a big asset in a fly-half, but Meadows can give a pass with equal facility, and he served his centres accurately and with judgment. The recruit also showed clever dribbling powers, and one movement in which he was the chief performer was as good as anything I have seen in ball control. Meadows' promise is encouraging, and the Selection Committee should be relieved of all anxiety as to the outside half position.

The revised three-quarter line for the City gave promise of better things, and it is a pity David will have to drop out shortly owing to his having to return to India.

With a quicker service the players displayed improved combination, and in the centre both Stephens and David brought off some beautiful runs, though failing to completely beat the defence. David, too, tackled strongly, but twice he went a bit too low, and his opponent escaped.

James, in his new position on the wing, had the distinction of scoring three tries, and his general work was highly satisfactory. He brought his side-step into effective operation, and he lacked nothing in dash and determination in going for the line. With Stephens, he indulged in some pretty inter-passing at times, and this move might be practiced and improved upon with advantage. Loveridge, recovered from his injury, tried hard to get amongst the scorers, but could not get any luck.

Boughton, if he made a few errors in judgment, gave another splendid display, and his huge kicking to touch aided the forwards a good deal. There were occasions when he drove the ball more than half the length of the ground; and how he enjoys it! Jerram, on the other side, also served his team well.

The Hospital surprised the home team in the early stages by their tenacity and relentless tackling, and even when the game continued to go against them they offered a bold front.

The forwards were keen and bustling, and were quick to make headway in the open. Walker and Robertson were a serviceable pair of half-backs, and the three-quarter line were fast and strong runners, and possessed football ability.

The Millers formed the strongest wing, though Beilby and Purvis did excellently at times.

Next week : County Championship match, Gloucestershire v. Devon, at Exeter; Gloucester v. Cheltenham, at Cheltenham.

GLOUCESTER A v. BERRY HILL

CITY SECONDS WIN AWAY FROM HOME

At Berry Hill. Gloucester A kicked off before a good crowd. Berry Hill had the best of opening play, the City Seconds touching down. B. White tackled Thompson in possession, and from the following scrum Stan Short got through in brilliant style and crossed with an unconverted try.

More fine play by the home team saw L. Hawkins again cross for an unconverted try.

Berry Hill were penalised and Benbow kicked a good goal. A splendid movement by the visitors ended in a try by Abbey, which Benbow converted.

Half-time :

Berry Hill 2 tries
Gloucester A 2 goals (1p)

Berry Hill had the better of the first half and were unlucky to be in arrears. The second half saw Gloucester slightly superior in open play. Fisher was injured and had to leave the field. Berry Hill played well with 14 men, but Gloucester A scored through Goodwin and Lewis, the two tries being unconverted.

Result :

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| Gloucester A .. | 2 goals (1p) | 2 tries (14 pts.) |
| Berry Hill | | 2 tries (6 pts.) |

JC