

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1927

GLOUCESTER BEATEN BY SERVICES

BUT GO DOWN FIGHTING

EXCELLENT TACKLING BY THE VISITORS

Owing to the calls of the County Championship match, Gloucester had only a moderate side out for this match with Devonport Services at Kingsholm, on Saturday afternoon. But despite this handicap, the homesters were hoping to give the Services a hard game and there was a good crowd present when the teams kicked off.

Teams :

GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Thomas.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. Hough, R. N. Loveridge, A. W. Lewis, and R. C. Thompson.

HALF-BACKS : R. Milliner and D. Meadows.

FORWARDS : A. Hall, J. K. Evans, T. East, T. Wadley, E. Comley, G. Foulkes, H. Pitt, and L. Franklin.

DEVONPORT SERVICES

BACK : Surg.-Lieut. Joyce.

THREE-QUARTERS : Lieut. Dalrymple. Lieut. Cumberbald, Lance-Corporal Pennington, and Lance-Corporal Goodwin.

HALF-BACKS : A. B. Parry and Joiner Husson.

FORWARDS : Surg.-Lieut. Osborne, Lieut.-Com. Chapman, Lance-Corporal Domus, Midshipman Allan, Marine McIlroy, C.P.O. Thornton, Lance-Corporal Townsend, and Marine Webb.

THE GAME

Gloucester showed the greater initiative in the opening minutes and after only just being held up on the line T. WADLEY dashed over with a try, which Comley converted with a glorious kick. This was after only five minutes' play.

On the restart the Services at once became dangerous but G. Thomas relieved the pressure with a good touch kick. Gloucester were penalised but an attempt at goal was hardly far enough. The Services had a likely opportunity of crossing the Gloucester line when Thomas was at fault in fielding the ball, but a knock-on spoilt a likely movement.

The visitors were not to be denied, however, for following a period of hard pressure, the Gloucester defence was found wanting and TOWNSEND got over. Husson goaled.

By means of good dribbles, the Gloucester men brought play to the visitors' 25 and following a series of scrums and line outs, Loveridge made an attempt to cut through. He was quickly overpowered. Milliner also started a splendid three-quarter movement but Hough failed to gather the ball properly and Joyce cleared with a big kick.

Gloucester continued to do most of the attacking, but a mark by Hudson transferred play to the centre. Husson also got his side out of a dangerous position by means of a splendid dribble.

Pitt caused the visitors anxiety by forcing Joyce to lose the ball and there was an exciting race across the field before the ball finally went into touch. The visitors, by means of good footwork, brought play into the Gloucester half, and things began to look threatening before Thompson drove them back with a kick to touch.

A nice bout of passing by Loveridge and Meadows looked like succeeding until Loveridge was brought down. A few minutes later, Loveridge was cheered for a fine kick to touch.

Thomas nearly let the visitors through when he completely missed the ball. The Services secured from a line out, and looked all over scorers till Loveridge touched down.

HALF-TIME :
GLOUCESTER 1 goal
DEVONPORT SERVICES 1 goal

Gloucester again quickly took up the offensive on resuming and Wadley and Pitt brought play to the visitors' 25 by a good dribble. Meadows and Franklin also gained ground by kicks to touch, but hard tackling held the Gloucester men up.

Hough made a praiseworthy attempt to get through and Foulkes succeeded in dropping over the line but Comley's transfer was forward. An exciting scrummage on the Services line looked like bringing Gloucester success, but Hough was bundled into touch only a yard from the corner.

The Services relieved by a dash down the centre and in holding them up Hall injured his arm and had to go off for attention, but he quickly resumed. The Services were displaying some good footwork and frequently gained ground with dribbles.

The game was being fought out at a terrific pace, and the ball was flung about with abandon, but sound tackling held up many movements.

The City secured from a line out, and the three-quarters started a promising movement that looked dangerous till Loveridge dropped the ball. Play was transferred to the home quarters and following several scrums, CHAPMAN got over. The goal kick failed.

The game had hardly been resumed before the Services went further ahead, this time through DALRYMPLE, who, outdistancing all opposition, scored near the posts. The goal kick, although an easy one, failed.

Gloucester quickly took up the attack, and Loveridge tried a penalty kick for goal. The ball, however, lacked direction. Several scrums in the visitors' half brought play near the latter's line, and Meadows made a plucky effort, but he was crowded out.

The Gloucester men were playing with plenty of dash, and were unlucky to be in arrears. Their forward rushes always spelt danger, but they were unable to overcome the stern resistance of the Services' defence.

Loveridge was playing a sound game. Foulkes spoilt an excellent chance by failing to hold the ball. The tackling on both sides was very deadly, and just before the finish, in a desperate attempt to score, Hough and Foulkes were temporarily laid out. When tackled Hough was only a foot from the line.

The end came with the Services holding the upper hand.

RESULT :

SERVICES 1 goal, 2 tries (11 pts.)

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (5 pts.)

REMARKS

Gloucester played a plucky game, but did not seem to be able to get going properly. They started well enough, and were quickly in front; they showed plenty of dash, but the Services' keen tackling was generally too much for them. Wadley's try was a splendid effort.

G. Thomas was not so sound as usual, his kicking often going astray. But the real cause of the City's defeat was the Services' grim defence. Their tackling was very deadly.

Gloucester held their own in the first half, but the visitors' superior speed told towards the end of the game and Dalrymple's try was a splendid example of what a fast wing can do.

The City played up with plenty of spirit in the closing stages of the game, Hough, Foulkes, and Loveridge making gallant attempts to get over. Try as they would, however, they could not elude the Services backs, who played an excellent game.

The teams were fairly evenly matched, and the game was fought out at a terrific pace. R. Milliner played a sound game at scrum half and Don Meadows and R. N. Loveridge were always in the thick of the fight. H. Pitt, E. Comley, and L. Franklin were the pick of the forwards. Hough was an untiring worker, and his great effort in the closing stages deserved to succeed if only for his determination.

The Services had a good back in Joyce, who frequently relieved awkward situations with huge kicks to touch. Husson, despite his lack of inches, is a most useful man, with plenty of dash.

There was little to choose between the forwards, but the Services made better use of their feet than the home men and gained much ground with dribbles.

JC