

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1927

## GLOUCESTER'S HEAVY DEFEAT

NEWPORT MASTER DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS

EXCELLENT HANDLING LEADS TO SIX TRIES

Newport's visit to Kingsholm was looked forward to with keen interest by local supporters. Gloucester had a good side out, R. N. Loveridge, who last week appeared at centre, being again in his old position on the wing. Boughton and Voyce were still absent.

The visitors finally decided on Everson as full-back.

Unfortunately, the rain that had set in overnight continued throughout the day, and the conditions were not very favourable for a fast game. The match was of special importance to the Newport men in view of the fact that the Welsh team to meet the Waratahs next week will be chosen to-night.

Rain was still falling when the game started, but there was a good crowd present. Gloucester made a last-minute alteration. J. Hemming had not quite recovered from the injuries received in the Swansea match and H. Pitt took his place in the forwards.

## GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Thomas.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. N. Loveridge, E. Stephens, J. Stephens, and Roy James.

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

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

## NEWPORT

BACK : W. E. Everson.

THREE-QUARTERS : J. C. Morley, E. J. Kitson, W. R. Davies, and F. Nicholas.

HALF-BACKS : C. J. German and V. M. Griffiths (captain).

FORWARDS : H. T. Phillips, H. W. Peacock, N. Friend, R. Hathway, W. H. Lewis, H. C. Day, J. F. Evans, R. R. Herrera.

Referee : Mr. J. Southby (Bristol).

## THE GAME

Gloucester started with a rush and dribbled up to Everson, who kicked out. The ball went to the left and James gained ground. From a scrum near the Newport line the ball was kicked across the field, but Loveridge failed to hold it. By means of good footwork Newport transferred play to the home 25, and things began to look dangerous until Milliner went down to the ball and saved a rather awkward situation.

German was penalised for picking the ball out of the scrum. Newport were using their feet to advantage and for a time the ball was kept continually in the home half.

From a scrum in the City 25 the ball was smothered and there was an exciting tussle before Foulkes came away with the ball at his toe. Kitson and Nicholas combined in a likely movement, but they did not get far. A passing bout between German, Smith and Davies looked like succeeding until the ball was kicked into touch.

Newport were not to be denied, however, and after 20 minutes took the lead, NICHOLAS crowning a brilliant dash by scoring near the corner. Everson's kick struck the post and rebounded.

Gloucester played up strenuously after this, but they could not get going, and Thomas was at fault when he missed the ball. J. Stephens, however, secured possession and kicked to touch.

Newport were showing plenty of dash, though their passing was a little wild at times, and after a further five minutes play MORLEY forced his way over from a scrum near the posts. Everson goaled. The Gloucester tackling was not so sound as usual.

Davies forced his way through a crowd of players, but German knocked on. Loveridge, in punting ahead, was injured in the stomach and had to receive attention. A passing bout between Kitson and MORLEY ended in the latter going over near the posts for a further try which Everson goaled.

Gloucester were getting a little rattled, but they pulled themselves together and Saxby showed the way with a brilliant tackle. The ball was carried to the Newport 25, but Gloucester were again driven back. Meadows, however, returned play to the visitors' half with a good kick.

HALF-TIME :

NEWPORT ..... 2 goals, 1 try  
GLOUCESTER .....,..... Nil

On the restart Newport quickly took up the attack, and following a series of scrums James made a blunder and nearly let them through. Griffiths sent NICHOLAS away and the latter eluding all opposition ran over. Everson's kick failed.

The rain had made the ground very treacherous, and the home men seemed to feel the handicap more than the visitors, who were playing a speedy and clever game. The home men rallied and gradually transferred play to the visitors' end. A dash by the forwards looked like bringing its reward until Everson fell on the ball. Newport were penalised for off-side. J. Stephens took the kick but to everyone's astonishment kicked yards wide.

A pretty bout of passing between the Newport three's transferred play to the home 25 and following a couple of scrums, MORLEY scored a further try. It was a splendid effort, and he eluded four of the home defence before getting over. Everson's kick failed. The home men were plastered with mud and it was extremely difficult to make out the players.

James set the home three-quarters going in good style and J. Stephens punted ahead but the ball went out. The ball was carried across to the left where J. Stephens intercepted and punted ahead and the ball rolled over the line. JAMES, who had followed up fell on it and scored a try. Comley's kick failed.

Gloucester were showing more fire and played with such determination that they looked likely to score again, but by means of a good dribble Newport got away. Thomas went down well, however, and drove them back. J. Stephens set the home men going again, and a fine forward rush was only held up a few yards from the line.

Following a series of scrums the ball went over the line, but a Newport man touched down. Gloucester, at this time, were on top and Newport had again to resort to a touch down to save their line.

The concluding stages of the game were played in semi-darkness and it was only with great difficulty that the play could be followed. Newport again got into their stride just before the finish, and the ball was kept dangerously near the home line for some minutes before a free kick sent them back.

They were, however, not to be denied, and Nicholas got hold of the ball near half way and, using his speed to advantage, ran along the touch line and kicked across. The home defence were found out of position, and KITSON had little difficulty in running over. Everson converted.

RESULT :

NEWPORT ..... 3 goals 3 tries (24 pts.)  
GLOUCESTER ..... 1 try (3 pts.)

## REMARKS

Gloucester were unfortunate in meeting Newport at the top of their form, and were for long periods completely outplayed. The visitors were smarter and faster in every department, and ran out easy winners. Their passing, even on the heavy ground, was a treat to watch, and the quick way in which they transferred the ball, either to the right or the left, was unusually fine.

The Gloucester men seemed to feel the handicap of the mud much more than the Welshmen, and their display was one of the poorest they have put up for some time. The City did, however, give an example of what they could do in the closing stages, but it was too late in the game to be effective and quickly fizzled out.

The Gloucester forwards managed to hold their own for a time, and broke up smartly, but the superior skill and speed of the Newport men proved too much for them. Newport were yards faster than the home men. The City's tackling, too, was not up to its usual standard, and at times was very poor. When Morley scored the last but one of the visitors' tries, for instance, four home players were round him, but the attempt at tackling was so feeble that he was allowed to go over.

Nicholas and Morley were the strategists for Newport, and some of their moves were fine examples of opportunism. German played a wonderful game at scrum half, the manner in which he set his three-quarters going being, at times, almost inspired. He was a great thorn in the home side. Everson played a clean and brainy game at full back, his touch-kicks and tackling being much superior to that of Thomas. Griffiths, too, was always dangerous when he got the ball. Phillips and Herrera were the pick of the forwards.

The chief reasons for Gloucester's heavy defeat were lack of speed and weak tackling. The game was fought out at a great pace, and was always interesting to watch.

In the home side, J. Stephens and Milliner were hard workers, and it was not their fault that Gloucester did not score more often than they did. They both made gallant individual attempts, and gave their side many helpful passes, but the home men were either not quick enough or passed wildly, with the result that the opportunity was lost. Loveridge, although not having a great deal to do, came through with credit, and James was good at times.

G. Thomas was unusually weak at times, but he made amends later by some clever picking up in face of Newport's forward rushes. His fielding and kicking generally, however, left much to be desired.

The City forwards were frequently quite good, and some of their rushes looked likely to bring some result, but lack of speed nullified many efforts. Saxby played a great game, and gave his men encouragement by his sure tackling and keen rushes, but he was not supported properly. Comley and East were the only others who played up to their ordinary form.

Newport's play on the whole, despite the unfavourable conditions, was of an unusually high standard, and the work of the three-quarters was some of the finest ever seen at Kingsholm.

## GLOUCESTER A v. NEWPORT A

### CITY SECONDS STILL UNBEATEN.

At Newport. The weather conditions were atrocious. Play, however, was interesting, but lacked finish on both sides. Slade, the Newport full back, was injured and carried off, but resumed before the interval. Wear kicked ahead and, beating Whiting, scored for Newport. Thompson scored a good try for Gloucester.

Half-time :

Newport A .....	1 try
Gloucester A .....	1 try

In the second half Slade was forced to retire through his injury, and play was fairly even. The passing and kicking of both sides were faulty, and showed lack of judgment. Westbury was awarded a penalty try for Newport, and Holford kicked a penalty goal for Gloucester.

Result :

Newport A ..... 2 tries (6 points)

Gloucester A ... 1 goal (p) 1 try (6 points)

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