

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1928

GUY'S HOSPITAL 6 Pts.; GLOUCESTER 3 Pts.

A GAME IN THE MUD AT KINGSHOLM

FORWARDS PRINCIPALLY INVOLVED

Bad weather conditions prevailed for the visit of the Hospital cup-holders to Kingsholm for their return match with Gloucester, and the "gate" suffered considerably.

The City were again below strength, for in addition to Boughton (who underwent a successful operation at the Royal Infirmary this morning for his knee trouble) and Loveridge, Hough was unable to take his place at right wing three-quarter owing to a strained muscle in the groin.

Thomas was brought in at full-back, allowing James to go back to the third line, and T. Stephens was introduced at centre.

The Hospital brought a strong side, though the back division was changed from that which opposed the City at Honor Oak, when a drawn game of 8 points each was recorded.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Thomas.

THREE-QUARTERS : L. Abbey, J. Stephens, T. Stephens, and R. James.

HALF-BACKS : R. Milliner and E. Stephens.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby (capt.), J. F. Evans, E. Comley, T. Wadley, J. Davies, G. Foulkes, H. Pitt, and N. East.

GUY'S HOSPITAL

BACK : P. D. Spence.

THREE-QUARTER BACKS : G. V. Mostert, F. H. Spence, A. J. Lewis, and T. G. Robinson.

HALF-BACKS : T. O. Garland and D. F. Ryan.

FORWARDS : W. H. Myburgh, G. G. Cameron, J. Durr, J. H. Cullinan, C. D. Malone, A. Simpson-Smith, and R. A. Hogbin.

Referee : Mr. P. Burman (Bristol).

THE GAME

The heavy downpour all the morning had rendered the ground very heavy in places, and drizzling rain still fell when the teams took the field before about 3,000 spectators. Saxby won the toss and from the visitors' kick-off the ball was returned to touch at the centre. From the first set scrum Garland broke away on the blind side and fed Mostert, who dashed away and passed nicely inside. The ball came across the field beautifully, but Lewis failed to take the final transfer and Gloucester saved.

The City gained a few yards with a loose rush, but were beaten back, and E. Stephens fumbling just outside matters looked dangerous until Saxby dropped on the ball. Another sharp attack by the Hospital broke down, but a little later a kick over the line went to touch in goal. Following the drop out the Gloucester backs handled, and J. Stephens punted well to touch inside the Hospital half. With a pretty bit of footwork Abbey earned applause, and Gloucester went very close with a loose rush, P. Spence saving grandly ten yards out.

A penalty to Guy's eased the pressure, and midfield play followed. Here E. Stephens gathered and brought off a beautiful run but with a possible opening for Abbey he passed wildly. Gloucester, with good forward work, gained the advantage and Saxby securing dashed through but his transfer was taken by an opponent who kicked to touch.

Gloucester, in subsequent play, had the better of the exchanges, the forwards putting in some fine work in the loose. Davies, with a capital breakaway, took the ball to P. Spence, and pushed his opponent to touch. Then with a combined rush the City forwards beat the opposing three-quarters and full-back, and the ball being kicked over the line East, Abbey and Saxby followed up keenly, ABBEY just gaining the touch. T. Stephens failed at goal.

On the restart there was a spell of even work at the centre until more good kicking by Guy's gave the visitors territorial advantage. Saxby was applauded for a fine follow up and tackle of P. Spence, but immediately after Garland fed Mostert on the short side of the scrum. The wing man dashed away and cross-kicked. J. Stephens had to run back to field, and in attempting to clear punted across the field. F. SPENCE, who was well up, had nothing to do but gather the ball and touch down. Durr failed at goal, and the scores were level.

Gloucester resumed and at once set up an attack. The ball was carried some 20 yards to the line, where a touch down was awarded. From the drop out, Guy's broke away, and a lucky kick went out of play inside the Gloucester half. Vigorous forward work followed, the tackling being very keen. The players, however, found the ball difficult to control.

A pretty bit of combination between Garland and Lewis saw the latter cross-punt and over the line, where James secured and conceded a minor. Gloucester kicked down to P. Spence after the drop-out, but the latter ran around and fed Lewis, who again essayed a cross-kick, but nothing resulted. Gloucester cleared from a dangerous position through the forwards, and by [*one, or two words unreadable*] backing up and close tackling Guy's were forced back to their quarters.

For off-side the Hospital were penalised, but Saxby's kick for goal fell short, and P. Spence punted out. Exchange fly kicks ended favourably for Guy's and then weak defence by the City backs allowed the Hospital to get very close, Thomas saving in the nick of time.

With sharp passing, Guy's twice tried to break through but the defence held and Gloucester got out of danger through James. The forwards were bearing the brunt of the play, though Guy's did not lose a favourable opportunity of opening out, Garland being very prominent.

Each side in turn gained a slight advantage, but Guy's eventually asserted superiority with sharp forward bursts and at the interval play was well inside the home half.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER 1 try
GUY'S HOSPITAL 1 try

Saxby restarted, and the first incident of note was a clever pick-up by E. Stephens who went through finely and fed his cousin Jack. The latter carried on, and beat P. Spence, but the Hospital custodian just managed to touch the Gloucester centre's ankle and caused him to stumble with the goal line in view.

The ground was churned up badly in places, and the players found the handicap too much for them at times. The City forwards worked strenuously and P. Spence was called upon to clear under difficulties, which he did successfully.

Thomas, with well placed kicks, put Gloucester in a good position, where a player taking a flying kick lifted the ball over the bar and a minor resulted. Gloucester kept their opponents confined to their 25, until a loose kick went past the half-way to Thomas, who had to be sharp to get in his kick.

Scrambling play followed, with the Hospital in the ascendency. A big rush found the City players unable to check it on the treacherous surface, and after some exciting play GARLAND picked up and though tackled by a couple of home players managed to force himself over the line for a try. Durr missed the goal points.

Gloucester restarted with great vigour, and in one determined burst P. Spence only just saved in the nick of time. From a penalty Saxby punted high, but Gloucester could not get the ball away and big kicking by Guy's transferred operations to the City half. It was rush and counter rush between the forwards with Guy's having slightly the best of matters.

A penalty to Gloucester was received by E. Spence, who shook off several would-be tacklers and started passing. The ball was got out to Robinson, who dashed down touch, but just put his foot over the mark.

Gloucester gained a few yards with a bout of passing and a kick by J. Stephens, but the Hospital men replied, and Thomas was tested with a high punt, but the home full back was very safe. Guy's held the upper hand for a time, but clever kicks by E. Stephens prevented them getting dangerous. But the football witnessed was more or less of a mud-larking description, and there was little of note to record.

Gloucester recovered for a few minutes, but they lost ground as a result of a shot at goal from a penalty, F. Spence receiving and kicking to touch near the 25. Guy's gradually forged ahead, and from a cross-punt by Garland the Gloucester line was in danger. A scrum five yards out was ordered, and mistakes by the Guy's backs allowed the City to clear.

The rival players were bespattered with mud and it was a difficult matter to tell them apart. In the closing stages Gloucester worked desperately to save the game, but did not meet with success, and before the end Guy's took up the attack again.

RESULT :

GUY'S HOSPITAL2 tries (6 points)
GLOUCESTER 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

For the greater portion of the game it was a mud-larking scramble between the rival packs of forwards, and the conditions told so heavily on the men that they played themselves practically to a standstill.

Under the conditions prevailing Guy's were the better equipped side, and for that reason they deserved their success. It was a rare tussle between the forwards, with the Hospital lasting better, thanks to the assistance they received from their backs, who kicked stronger and with better judgment than the home men.

There were occasions when the City front were on top, and P. Spence, the visiting custodian, was frequently tested, but he was rarely found wanting. Thomas, too, was very cool under pressure, and though his kicks had no great length, he came through a severe ordeal with credit.

There was no serious effort on the part of either set of scrummagers to do much heeling, and most of the open play attempted was initiated from the loose. Guy's were far more enterprising than the Kingsholm men and in the early stages the Hospital backs brought off one or two splendid movements. Their work in this department was so effective that on a dry ground Gloucester would probably have experienced a far more difficult task. Garland, at the near side of the scrum, was always a danger with his strong dashes, and more than once he gave indication that he was equally as clever with his feet. Milliner stuck to his opponent pluckily, but found the Hospital player too elusive for him at times.

The Guy's backs, as a whole, had the speed of the Gloucester division, and this told whenever the City players got on the move. E. Stephens was as useful as any of his colleagues behind, and was quick to recover mistakes in handling. He slipped the defence cleverly once when he put J. Stephens in possession, and but for Spence's successful ankle touch Gloucester would probably have scored.

The home defence was not altogether satisfactory, but on such a day errors in fielding or gathering were excusable. The Gloucester threequarters were rarely dangerous as an attacking force, but the defence was fairly sound with no player outstanding above his colleagues.

Guy's had a bustling pack, and the players appeared thoroughly at home in the heavy going. Durr, Cameron, Myburgh, and Popplewell[sic] were noticeable for determined play and close tackling, and for Gloucester Saxby, Davies, Foulkes, and Comley put in a tremendous amount of hard work.

Guy's found in Ryan a useful reserve for Preen at outside half, and all the three-quarters ran with determination and showed cleverness in handling on occasions. F. Spence was the more in evidence at centre, and Mostert and Robinson displayed plenty of dash on the respective wings.

Next week : Gloucester v. Plymouth Albion, at Kingsholm.

GLOUCESTER A v. BATH A

CITY SECONDS NARROWLY BEATEN

At Bath, before a small attendance, and in shocking weather conditions.

A clever interception by Thompson, the Gloucester left wing, commenced a tip-top movement, which carried play the whole length of the field close to the corner flag. Another movement almost similar in character followed.

Play, however, became very scrambling owing to the conditions.

Gloucester had a good deal of the game, which was, on the whole, very even. Up to the interval there was no score.

Half-time :

Bath A Nil

Gloucester A Nil

Bath restarted briskly, and within a few minutes P. R. Skinner rounded off an attack with a try, R. Berkeley goaling.

Play went from one end to the other, but ball control at times was difficult. There was no further score.

Result :

Bath A 1 goal (5 points)

Gloucester A Nil

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