

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1928

GLOUCESTER 28 Pts.; WELSH UNIVERSITIES 5 Pts.

REMARKABLE SCORING GAME AT KINGSHOLM

BOUGHTON'S SUCCESSFUL GOAL-KICKING

The Welsh Universities opened a short tour at Kingsholm, but the side lacked the services of all prominent players who have figured so prominently in first-class football. Gloucester, too, were short of Pitt and Evans, the vacancies forward being filled by Hiam and Meadows. The weather was fine and the ground in splendid condition. There was a good holiday crowd present.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : Roy James, J. Stephens, A. W. Lewis, and A. Hough.

HALF-BACKS : R. Milliner and L. Abbey.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby (capt.), E. Comley, G. Foulkes, T. Wadley, J. Davies, L. C. Meadows, T. Hiam, and F. Russell.

WELSH UNIVERSITIES

BACK : R. C. Evans.

THREE-QUARTER BACKS : B. Roderick, S. Arthur, H. C. Perry, and O. Jenkins.

HALF-BACKS : W. Bowen and S. Davies.

FORWARDS : J. P. Stephens, A. Shannon, T. Billing, F. Britton, G. A. Evans, G. John, H. Thomas, and A. Lewis.

Referee : Mr. L. V. Huggins (Gloucester).

THE GAME

Gloucester kicked off, but the ball failing to go ten yards a scrum followed at the centre. Boughton early got in a big punt over the line, but Evans slipped a couple of forwards and got in a capital touch-finder. The Gloucester forwards got the ball back from the opening scrums, but though the backs handled well little ground was gained.

Mistakes in passing allowed the Welshmen to clear, and further fumbling gave the visitors an opening which they were quick to utilise. Jenkins dashed away on the left wing and passed inside, but a knock-on spoiled a splendid opening.

Gloucester were at fault a little later, and Arthur securing dodged cleverly, and went through to Boughton, when he gave a nice pass to RODERICK, who raced round behind the posts for a splendid try. Jenkins kicked a goal, and the Universities were five points ahead in as many minutes.

Gloucester resumed and quickly got in their opponents' 25, but good kicking sent play to the centre. Even play followed until Stephens was well served by Abbey. Dodging his way through the opposition, STEPHENS sold the "dummy" twice and finished a splendid effort by scoring in a good position for Boughton to equalise the points.

On the re-start the City backs came away splendidly, and Lewis served Hough, who raced away but fell to a good tackle close in. The ball getting loose, Milliner threw out a pass to Abbey, and there was another fine chance of a score, but Stephens missed the transfer. Gloucester kept up the pressure, but the handling at critical moments was faulty, and possible chances went astray.

Play was fast and open and with the City doing nearly all the heeling the backs were more often in possession. There was a promising round in which nearly all the players shared, but though Hough made a great attempt to score he was pulled down just outside.

The Universities were tackling keenly, but Stephens, picking up from the loose, threaded his way through the opposition and gave Foulkes a pass which enabled the forward to run over and behind the posts. He was tackled and apparently failed to make the touch down for the referee only allowed a minor.

The City attacked resolutely on the resumption, but the visitors' marking was very good. At length Milliner and Abbey worked out a nice movement and James put in a strong run down touch. He was collared from behind, but letting the ball go STEPHENS carried on with a dribble and scored. Boughton again converted.

Gloucester maintained the upper hand on the re-start, Milliner and Boughton shining with good work. The City forwards rushed well on two occasions, and the Welsh line was placed in danger. Losing the ball, however, a visitor picked up and gained relief with a useful punt. Further progress was made with a dribble, but the Gloucester backs replied with a round of passing. James, the last to receive, punted to mid-field, where Jenkins got across and saved.

Mistakes in handling by the City let the visitors in and in some close dribbling the ball was kicked over the line, Gloucester saving luckily. Following the drop-out, the Welshmen returned with loose footwork, but Boughton gathered finely, came through the forwards, and punted to touch at the centre. The Gloucester backs broke away cleverly, and Lewis and Stephens inter-passing, the latter fed Hough, but the wing man was finely tackled by Jenkins. Milliner next opened out nicely, and there appeared to be a good opening on the left, but James failed to take his pass. A big kick by Boughton was well returned, and then the Welshmen shone in a series of exchanges which gave them a good chance, but with a try almost certain a tackle by Foulkes saved right under the posts.

Milliner had been laid out with a damaged ankle and had to go off, Saxby figuring as scrum worker. The City broke clear, and James had another dash down touch, but could not clear the opposition. Play was at mid-field when the interval arrived.

HALF-TIME :
GLOUCESTER 2 goals
UNIVERSITIES 1 goal

The Universities had played bright football, and with speedy backs had given the City men a lot of trouble.

Milliner returned when the Welshmen restarted, and the opening incident was a splendid run by Davies, who beat the defence cheaply. He was eventually brought down, but not before the home end was visited.

The Universities opened out nicely from a line-out, and Arthur again made the defence look cheap. He finally put in a short punt, but Boughton made a daring save.

From this point Gloucester went away with a sharp movement, and Abbey punted across to the right wing. Jenkins was on the spot, but failed to pick up, and HOUGH gathering put the ball over the line with rather a soft try. Boughton missed the goal points.

On the resumption Abbey shone in another clever move, and Lewis, running hard, just failed to get clear. Working hard, the City rushed to the line, where the Universities had a narrow escape. For off-side the Welshmen were penalised in front of the posts, but Boughton missed from the easy position.

Gloucester had the better of subsequent play, but could not get a clear opening. Twice the Welsh were hard pressed, but they were very clever in getting out of difficulties.

The Gloucester tackling continued very weak at times, and in attack judgment was often lacking. Fast on the ball, the Welshmen made tracks for the home goal-line, and Arthur looked to have a fine chance of going through. Being pressed by Boughton and Hough, he threw the ball inside, and it was lost.

For a few minutes the Welshmen had the better of the play, but a penalty kick taken by Boughton transferred operations to the visitors' 25. Here Boughton took a drop for goal, but missed, and Davies, gathering, slipped Stephens and came away with a beautiful run. He covered three-parts the length of the field, and with two colleagues well placed a try appeared imminent. But at the critical moment James, who had got across, effected a smothering tackle and saved the situation. The ball getting loose, a visitor dropped for goal, but without success, a minor resulting.

The ball from the drop-out bounced to touch at the Welsh 25, and the Gloucester forwards breaking away the Welsh defence was at fault. A City forward gathered neatly and, passing to DAVIES, the latter scored near the posts for Boughton to convert.

Abbey had been off the field for a few minutes, and during his absence Milliner and Saxby worked out a pretty opening. Stephens gave James a chance, but though the left-winger made a splendid attempt to cross he was tackled on the line by Evans and lost the ball.

Though 15 points down the Welshmen played very keen football, and Gloucester were kept busy. Abbey now returned, and at once the City backs were placed in possession. James tried a dash through, but lost the ball. It was eventually kicked over the line, and RUSSELL was credited with a try, though to all appearance he was well off-side. Boughton added the goal points, making the score 23 points to 5 in the City's favour.

After the resumption the Universities made an incursion to the home 25, but Stephens intercepted, dodged clear and passed to James, who made further headway. His transfer, however, was forward with the defence beaten.

The Welshmen played up pluckily, the forwards dribbling with great effect. Roderick, too, put in a fine solo effort, punting and securing the ball again. He, however, was stopped in the nick of time. Gloucester had an anxious moment, but eventually cleared.

Then came a wonderful run by Lewis, who evaded the opposition cleverly and worked out a splendid opening. He finally passed to Saxby, who served JAMES for the latter to score after one of the best combined efforts witnessed during the afternoon. Boughton again converted.

Directly after the restart the Gloucester backs were sent off again, but Stephens lost the ball when tackled, and Jenkins picking up had practically a clear field. Hough, however, got back and tackled his man, and another player who received possession was similarly dealt with, Gloucester getting out of a dangerous situation rather luckily. Play to the end was full of incident, but there was no further scoring.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 5 goals 1 try (28 pts.)

UNIVERSITIES 1 goal (5 pts.)

REMARKS

Gloucester checked the run of defeats at Kingsholm to-day in a somewhat remarkable game. The heavy scoring would suggest that the City had an easy journey, but it was far from this. The Universities might have lacked experience, but they were a keen and nippy lot, and there were several occasions when Gloucester were decidedly lucky in averting scores against them.

The display of football was in keeping with the holiday spirit – fast and open, with plenty of thrills and brilliant individual efforts. Gloucester carried too much weight forward for the visitors and generally had the best of matters in the scrums, but in the loose the Welshmen held their own splendidly, and at times dribbled with great effect.

The City team started none too well, and when the Universities opened the scoring there were visions of the Torquay surprise being repeated. But after Stephens had levelled matters with a glorious solo effort, the home players exhibited a confidence that was not misplaced.

Gloucester went well ahead in the second half, and thanks to Boughton's goal-kicking the final score reached a figure which, acceptable as it was to home followers, over-exaggerated the run of the play. From the Press seats Russell's try certainly did not appear to be a legitimate one, and the occupants of the Dean's Walk open stand voiced their opinion in no uncertain manner.

The Gloucester backs in this match had a great deal of the ball, and at times the work was consistently good. But there was a lot of faulty handling, and it was chiefly from these mistakes the Universities initiated those dangerous attacks which created so much anxiety to the home team.

Milliner, at scrum-half, got through a lot of sound work, and Abbey performed his duties at pivot with judgment and success, the majority of his transfers being well-delivered. Where the passing broke down was in the rear, and the four men in the third line all had their weak moments. Stephens brought off some splendid runs, and he and James worked together perfectly, if on occasions their well-intentioned efforts did not come off.

Lewis, in the first half, was inclined to part with the ball before he had drawn his opponent, and Hough was generally well covered. Hough, however, made several gallant efforts to pierce the defence after dashing bursts. Lewis came more into the picture in the second half, and James's final try was the direct outcome of a great run by the centre.

Forward, Gloucester were not too well together, but their combined rushes took a lot of stopping. Saxby, who deputised both at scrum and outside half whilst Milliner and Abbey were temporarily off the field, worked tremendously hard all through, and he had fine support from Foulkes, Davies, Wadley and Comley.

A weakness in the City pack was the tackling, and in no previous match have the players let opponents slip them so easily. Side-stepping was cleverly indulged in by players on both sides this afternoon, and it was done so simply as to make the efforts really amusing.

Boughton and Evans, the rival full backs, were both in splendid form. The visitor had the most to do, and was rarely at fault and his stopping was wonderful on occasions. The visiting forwards were on the light side, but they were desperately keen and very fast in the open.

Bowen was a bit slow at scrum half but Davies proved very elusive, and Arthur, at centre, proved himself a class player, dodging well and giving his wing a good service. Perry and Jenkins, too, were more than a useful pair, and marked very closely. The Universities could not bring their strongest team to Kingsholm, but the side which did duty gave an excellent account of themselves, and were not overpowered to the extent the scoring indicates.

Next week : Monday, Gloucester v. London Welsh; Tuesday, Gloucester v. Cinderford, at Cinderford, North Gloucester Combination Final (Senior Division), at Kingsholm; Thursday, Gloucester Boys v. Coventry Boys, at Kingsholm.

GLOUCESTER A v. BREAM

CITY SECONDS BEATEN BY TWO TRIES

Gloucester A were the visitors at Bream this afternoon, and were defeated by three tries to a try. W. Robbins, G. Jones, and H. Iles scored for the winners, and Whiting for the City Seconds.

Result :

Bream 3 tries (9 points)

Gloucester A 1 try (3 points)