

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1928

CITY WIN

UNITED SERVICES OUTPLAYED

LEAD CHANGES FIVE TIMES

With five players engaged for the County at Redruth, Hough on the injured list, and Davies under suspension, Gloucester were sadly weakened for their home match against the United Services this afternoon.

Saxby and Jack Stephens had also been invited to play for Gloucestershire, but both had to decline owing to inability to make the journey. Under the circumstances they were granted permission to assist their club.

The Services, who made a very close fight with Cambridge University last week, brought a good side; G. M. Sladen (the outside half), taking part in the International trial at Newcastle, being the most prominent absentee.

Teams : –

## GLOUCESTER

BACK : Glyn Thomas.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. R. Pottinger, M. A. McCanlis, L. Abbey, and I. Storrie.

HALF-BACKS : A. J. Tomlinson and J. Stephens.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby, A. Webb, T. Hiam, L. C. Meadows, G. Foulkes, J. Hemming, H. Meek, F. Russell.

## UNITED SERVICES

BACK : P. F. Dawson.

THREE-QUARTERS: G. B. Slater, A. R. Freeman, H. C. Cumberbatch, and T. J. Clarke.

HALF-BACKS : T. B. Woodroffe and J. H. Forbes.

FORWARDS : T. G. Crick (capt.), G. Grantham, W. J. Robertson, R. C. Harry, J. C. Westall, S. G. Collins, T. A. Godsell, and G. N. Loriston Clark.

Referee : Mr. E. Richardson (Bristol).

## THE GAME

The visitors opened the game, and within the first minute had forced the home team to their own 25. Some smart work by the home halves, however, eased the situation, and brought play to mid-field, but for a time no further headway could be made. A good kick by Thomas gave Gloucester considerable territorial advantage, and in a breakaway, JACK STEPHENS ran through cleverly to open the City's account with a try right behind the posts, five minutes after the start. His goal kick, however, failed.

Gloucester were now holding their own, Stephens being especially prominent in the attack, while Tomlinson also proved a sharp thorn in the visitors' side. After containing play to the visitors' half for several minutes, the Services' forwards made a fine rush down the field, but Thomas was not found wanting, and checked the onrush half way.

The Services maintained their pressure, however, Gloucester having a narrow escape when the visitors heeled from a scrum five yards out for Woodroffe to try a drop at goal. Luckily his kick failed, but the City were not to hold their lead for long, for a minute later SLATER made a smart run down the wing, and equalised with a try in the corner. Dawson took the kick, and added the goal points.

The reverse stirred Gloucester to greater efforts, and the Services were at once forced back to their own quarters. Keen open play followed, and a couple of minutes later the Services were penalised. STEPHENS took the kick from near midfield, and with a capital shot landed a goal, giving Gloucester again the lead.

The City forwards were now having the better of matters, and renewed their bombardment of the visitors' half, but Dawson brought temporary relief with a good kick into touch at half-way, and for a time play was contested in midfield.

Clever passing by Woodroffe, Cumberbatch, and Freeman brought play to the home 25, but the City defence proved equal to the test. Just on half-time the Service forwards pressed again vigorously, and GODSELL went over near the posts for a try, the goal kick failing.

HALF-TIME :

UNITED SERVICES ..... 1 goal 1 try  
GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal (p) 1 try

Play in the first half had been keen and open, neither side showing any marked superiority, though the City forwards were having on the whole the better of the exchanges.

On the resumption, the home forwards again pressed strongly, and within a couple of minutes, the lead for the fifth time changed hands, STEPHENS scoring a goal from a penalty kick. The City were now getting the most of the game, the Services being kept constantly on the defensive.

Exciting play ensued, several melees taking place dangerously near the visitors' goal line. Gloucester were awarded another penalty kick, but Stephens' splendid effort failed, the ball striking the posts. A minute later, the home threes made a fine bout of passing, and STORRIE accepting from Abbey rushed through to increase the lead with a try. Stephens' kick, however, failed.

So far in this half, the Services had played very feebly, play being confined to their quarter practically all the time. The City were much more on the alert, their superior combination proving almost irresistible.

Soon after the visitors were again penalised, and McCANLIS put Gloucester further ahead with a fine shot. Within another minute the City again applied pressure for STEPHENS to break through with a try, the goal kick, however, failing.

The visitors were now unable to make any headway, and Gloucester appeared to be in no danger of losing their lead of 18 points to 8. Some thrilling play was now witnessed, but no further score resulted.

#### RESULT :

GLOUCESTER .... 3 goals (3p.) 3 tries (18 pts.)  
UNITED SERVICES ..... 1 goal 1 try (8 pts.)

#### REMARKS

Despite the fact that several of the regular players were absent, the City team rose to the occasion and won a well-deserved victory.

The Gloucester forwards were easily superior in the loose, but in the scrums the Services had the better of matters.

The home three-quarters gave a fine display, and what they lacked in combination they made up by their individual thrust and dash.

Stephens was prominent throughout the game, scoring two penalty goals and two tries. Tomlinson played effectively at scrum half.

In the closing stages the Services, who more or less held their own in the first half, completely collapsed, and never once came near to scoring.

Of the two weakened sides, the City were easily the better.

## GLOUCESTER A v. WAGON WORKS

### WAGON WORKS FAIL TO SCORE

Played on the Sports Ground. The A team had the best of the opening exchanges and Spiers got over for a fine try which Benbow converted. A few minutes later, Loveridge, after a good solo effort again scored, the try not being converted. Cuss scored a third try near the posts. Benbow added the extra points from an easy position. Close on half-time Price got over and at half-time the City Seconds had a winning lead of 16 points.

The second half was a really fine struggle. In no way discouraged the Works came into their stride and more than held their own. Time and again they battled gamely on the City line and looked certain to score, but the City defence was really good and held out to the end, the second half yielding no score.

Gloucester A were really the better side, but nevertheless the score of 16 points to nil was hardly the difference between the teams.

Result :

Gloucester A ... 2 goals 2 tries (16 points)

Wagon Works ..... Nil