

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1928

## A BRILLIANT GAME

GLO'STER BEATEN BY TWO POINTS AFTER EXCITING FINISH

SERVICES' SUPERIORITY AT THREE-QUARTER

For the second week in succession Gloucester engaged a Services team, a strong side from Devonport, which included H. Stephenson and W. F. Browne (the Irish Internationals), C. K. T. Faithfull (who was "capped" for England in 1926), and several county players, visiting Kingsholm this afternoon.

Last season the Services beat a weak City team at Gloucester by 11 points to 5, but in the return at Devonport the result was a draw of one try each. To-day Gloucester were short of A. Hough (who it is stated is making good progress towards recovery), J. Davies, Jack Stephens and Roy James (the two latter crying off last evening). F. Benbow appeared at outside half and Storrie was given another chance at wing three-quarter.

The weather was fine and crisp and the ground in good condition. The early kick-off militated somewhat against the attendance, but there was a fair crowd present when the teams took the field.

## GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

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

HALF-BACKS : A. J. Tomlinson and F. Benbow.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby (capt.), F. Wadley, A. Carpenter, E. Comley, L. Meadows, T. Hiam, J. Hemming, and F. Russell.

## DEVONPORT SERVICES

BACK : Cpl. Goodwin.

THREE-QUARTERS : Lieut. Stephenson, Lieut. Dalrymple, Lieut. Orr, and Lieut. Wood.

HALF-BACKS : Joiner Husson and Sub-Lieut. Vincent.

FORWARDS : Lieut. Browne (capt.), Lieut. Faithfull, Pte. Glover, Lieut. Nott, Pte. Eyre, Midshipman Evans, Marine Webb, and Cpl. Foy.

Referee : Mr. Hunt (Bristol).

## THE GAME

Previous to the start the band played the National Anthem, the teams standing to attention in the middle of the field, and the spectators uncovering. The Services won the toss, and McCanlis kicked off for Gloucester, but failed to send the ball the regulation ten yards, and a scrum followed at the centre.

Several lines out and scrums ensued, ending in Saxby kicking through from the loose, and tackling the full-back in possession. Goodwin threw the ball away, and a Gloucester man dribbled to near the line, where Dalrymple saved. Opening out, the City pack started an attack, but Abbey kicked across, and Storrie could not get up in time.

Gloucester continued on the attack, but a clever movement by the Services brought play to midfield. The City worked back a little, but the visitors came again, and Stephenson punted across neatly. Boughton, however, gathered nicely, and found touch with a good kick. From the throw-out the Services broke away, and after a capital run by Faithfull, he passed to FOY, who went over the line with the first try. Faithfull failed at goal.

Gloucester restarted, and good play was witnessed. The City twice got the ball out, but the passing was poor, and no ground was gained. Smart work by the Services saw Gloucester on the defensive. Stephenson, after passing, ran to Boughton and punted over his head, but knocked on in trying to gather. The visitors rushed close from the ensuing scrum, and Tomlinson losing the ball over the line EYRE was credited with a try. No goal resulted.

So far Gloucester had shown very moderate form, especially in combination behind, Stephens being greatly missed.

Restarting, there was a spell of even play until the City forwards got away with a dashing dribble led by Meadows. Goodwin saved, and from the scrum Husson got the ball away to Dalrymple. The latter punted out to Boughton, who, on receiving, dodged his opponent and got in a beautiful cross punt over the line. He followed up and put his forwards on side, and RUSSELL securing, scored a good try. Boughton converted and placed his side within a point of the Services.

Play on the resumption was mainly with the forwards, the City pack doing finely in the loose. The Services retaliated, and Abbey missing a flying kick, matters looked dangerous until Benbow got down and saved. Another fine rush by the home front was carried on by Benbow and the visitors were closely pressed.

Tomlinson, with a smart pick up and dash, was nearly through, being tackled by Browne a couple of yards outside. The ball, however, got loose and was carried over the line, SAXBY, with Wadley in attendance, pouncing on it and registering a try. Boughton added the goal points and gave Gloucester the lead.

Unfortunately the Gloucester scrum half was injured in the tackle and had to be carried off.

When the game was resumed Meadows took the inside half position. Gloucester at once shone in a brilliant burst by Goodwin being floored directly he received. The extra speed of the visitors behind was at once made apparent.

Husson got the ball out and after a series of exchanges STEPHENSON received at the centre; the Irish International raced away, punted over Boughton's head and over the line, and ran on and gained the touch for a fine try. Faithfull missed the goal points.

Tomlinson returned now and Gloucester at once showed up strongly. Storrie was applauded for a smart dash on the right and punt, and again distinguished himself a little later. The Old Cryptian, however, was damaged and had to retire to the touch line, Comeley crossing onto wing three-quarter.

The City confined play to their opponents' half with strong forward work, but the ball coming out to the Services' backs it was got across to WOOD. The wing man sprinted hard and rounded Comeley and fairly and squarely beating Boughton, finished a grand effort by scoring behind the posts. Husson this time took the shot at goal, but failed badly, making the score 12-10.

In less than two minutes from the restart, the lead changed hands again. Gloucester gained a footing inside the Services half, and clever work by Benbow made an opening for ABBEY who eluded the opposition and burst over for a corner try. Boughton failed at goal, but the score was now 13-12 in Gloucester's favour. Storrie had returned just previously to this score.

The Services resumed, and there was an exciting incident. Gloucester attacked strongly, and from a cross-kick by McCanlis there was a fine opening. STORRIE was fouled with an almost certain score, and the referee awarded a penalty try. Boughton converted, and Gloucester led at the interval by 19 points to 12.

HALF-TIME :  
GLOUCESTER ..... 3 goals 1 try  
SERVICES ..... 4 tries

Gloucester started in fine style, the forwards bringing off a combined rush, which was checked with difficulty. Tomlinson, by smart work, opened out, but Abbey gave a bad pass to Storrie and nothing resulted.

A good touch-finder by Boughton put Gloucester well down, and Storrie following up a short punt by Wadley just failed to gain the touch from a kick near the line from the field of play.

The City were in a good attacking position, but a wide pass by Abbey did not bring any good result. Gloucester were beaten back to mid-field, where there was some wild passing on both sides.

There were some fierce exchanges between the forwards just now, ending in "matters easy." The Services were dangerous when they got the ball out, and once Wood was well away down touch. This time, however, Boughton effected a good tackle, and saved what looked a certain try.

The Gloucester forwards still continued to show superiority in the loose, but now and again there was a tendency to pick up. A fine effort by Browne put the Services on the attack and Gloucester were hard pressed. The City, however, came away and Goodwin being tackled in trying to clear, lost the ball. Here was a splendid opening, but it was missed.

Immediately after Stephenson came into prominence with a brilliant run and kick over Boughton's head. Another kick sent the ball against one of the uprights and straight into the arms of FRY, who went over under the posts. Faithfull this time converted, and brought the score to 18-17 in favour of Gloucester. It was exciting football, and the quick change in fortunes of the play kept the spectators in full excitement.

Gloucester went off with a bang on the kick-off, and Wadley, with a neat bit of work, put his side on the aggressive. There was a combined rush by the City forwards, ending in Browne receiving a knock on the head and Hemming damaging his shoulder. The Gloucester man went up, but the Services captain was able to resume.

A loose pass back from a Gloucester scrum saw the visiting forwards break away in dashing style, and they were not checked until half the length of the field had been covered. Gloucester recovered, principally through Benbow, and exciting exchanges ensued at mid-field.

Here Browne got possession in the open, and with a characteristic burst, and going at a big speed, he cleared first Storrie and then Boughton. It looked a try all the way, but a forward got back and effected a good tackle.

Gloucester were in a dangerous position, but a penalty for off-side enabled Boughton to find touch splendidly 30 yards down the field. Back the Services came through Stephenson, and only deadly tackling kept the visitors out. By super efforts Gloucester cleared, a lucky fly-kick by Goodwin stopping a promising movement.

The Services continued to work with great dash, and a brilliant movement by all three backs led to WOOD scoring a fine try. Faithfull failed at goal, but the visitors were now on top by two points. The finish was brilliant, the Services narrowly missing another try near the end.

#### RESULT :

SERVICES ..... 1 goal 5 tries (20 points)

GLOUCESTER .... 3 goals 1 try (18 points)

#### REMARKS

It was a remarkable game, with some free scoring, and a sensational finish. The Services had the more brilliant, speedy, and clever set of backs, and to this advantage they owed their triumph.

With their weakened ranks the City put up a splendid fight, and in the forwards nothing was given away. The exchanges here were at times fierce in the extreme, but the play was always clear and sporting, and thoroughly enjoyed by players and spectators. On the run of the game Gloucester were a bit fortunate in holding a six points' lead at the interval. The Services were always the more finished side, and their brilliant aggressive work in the concluding ten minutes deserved reward. Gloucester had lost Hemming before the final and winning try was obtained, but in recording this fact I do not wish to rob the Services of the full fruits of victory.

Gloucester went down fighting to the end, and though on the losing side they had their periods of success. The forwards played a great game against a very stiff opposition led by the famous Irish International "Horsey" Browne.

In the scrums the City held their own, and they were magnificent at times in the loose, with Saxby, Hemming, Meadows and Russell very conspicuous. Where the Services had a pull was a better idea of handling in the open, and their movements were so swift and accurate in execution that the defence at times looked certain to fall.

Browne was outstanding with brilliant bursts. He possesses wonderful pace for a forward, and when he came out in the concluding stages to help the backs he scintillated in two or three fine runs. That the Services were able to pull the game round was largely due to the International's efforts. But there were several other fast men in the Services' pack, and Foy and Faithfull rendered splendid service.

At half-back I thought the referee was very lenient towards Husson regarding the off-side rule. Tomlinson was several times impeded before the ball came out, but despite this pressing attention he got through a very satisfactory afternoon's work. Benbow, in Jack Stephens' place, performed creditably, but he too often took the ball standing still, and this slowed down all the passing movements attempted.

The Gloucester three-quarters were rarely in proper formation and the handling attempted was crude in comparison with the quicker methods of their opponents. Abbey scored his try very smartly, but he was unequal to the task set him, and McCanlis was not certain either in giving or taking passes. Of the wings, Storrie showed promise, but Pottinger got very little chance in attack. Stephenson and Wood were too fast for the Old Cryptians, but these players would beat far more experienced players with the opportunities they had to-day. As a line the Services were all-round the superior set, and two or three of the tries were brilliantly worked out.

Boughton's tackling in the open was tested to-day, and there were three occasions when the City full-back failed to stop his man. Otherwise Boughton gave a good account of himself, and Goodwin, on the whole, served the Services well.

Next week : Gloucester v. Llanelly, at Kingsholm; Gloucester A v. Old Boys, away.

JC