

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1929

CITY SUPERIOR

NORTHAMPTON BEATEN IN FAST OPEN GAME

CLEVER MARKING BY HOME TEAM

There was a moderate attendance at Kingsholm this afternoon, when Gloucester entertained Northampton. The visitors, whose team included two Internationals in Coley and Webb, made two changes among their forwards, J. W. Percival and W. A. Green deputising for M. Jackson and J. Longland. A notable absentee from their side was Bobbie Jones, the ex-Welsh International, who had gone to watch his brother in to-day's International duel at Twickenham. Gloucester made two changes; I. H. Storrie taking the place of Hough, and Benbow that of McCanlis.

Teams : —

## GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. James, J. Stephens, Glyn Thomas, and I. H. Storrie.

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

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby (capt.), F. Wadley, T. Hiam, E. Comley, J. Davies, F. J. Seabrook, A. Carpenter, and W. Cuffe.

## NORTHAMPTON

BACK : R. Vaughan.

THREE-QUARTERS : L. Mayes, M. Freer, R. Loverock, E. E. Haslemere.

HALF-BACKS : J. Millward and W. Goosey.

FORWARDS : W. H. Weston (capt.), E. Coley, T. Harris, M. Jelly, W. A. Green, J. W. Percival, R. Webb, and A. D. Matthews.

Referee : Mr. J. Southby (Bristol).

## THE GAME

Jack Stephens opened the game for Gloucester on a fairly soft turf, and the home team quickly started the attack. A breakaway by one of the visitors soon after the start was neatly frustrated by Boughton who, running through and kicking, forced the Saints to concede a minor.

Good open play followed, and though for a time the visitors brought the ball back to the home quarters, Benbow eased the situation with a smart run to the visitors' 25, where he was effectually tackled. The Saints' defence was again sound, however, but in their raids on the Gloucester quarters they found in Boughton a veritable thorn, the home back being conspicuous on many occasions for some timely kicks to touch, giving Gloucester considerable territorial advantage.

Northampton were getting the better of the scrums, but the home threes were the more resourceful, and much nippier in their movements than their opponents. Play was still delightfully open and fast, but Gloucester were unable for a time to make much headway, until Boughton eased the position with a fine but unsuccessful drop at goal.

Gloucester, after this, more than held their own, and the Northampton line, on two or three occasions, had a remarkable escape from being crossed. The Saints soon retaliated, and a fine burst by Loverock was only robbed of success through Haselmere's failure to accept the pass. A minute later, the same pair were again prominent, but were effectively tackled near the line. Shortly afterwards, the visitors were penalised, and from near midfield, BOUGHTON with a splendid kick, secured the goal points.

Midfield play followed, with Gloucester the more aggressive. A fine passing bout by the home threes once more brought the City to the visitors' 25, and after a temporary setback, JACK STEPHENS made a clever rush from near the half-way line, and beating all his opponents, scored near the posts one of the best tries seen on the ground this season. Boughton converted.

HALF-TIME :  
GLOUCESTER ... 2 goals (1p) (8 pts.)  
NORTHAMPTON ..... Nil

The Saints gained a slight advantage at the outset of the second half, but their success was short lived, for Boughton never lost his head, and again sent the visitors back to their own quarters.

A warm bombardment ensued in the visitors' 25, and for a time Gloucester again came near to increasing their lead, but gradually they were driven off. This slight reverse was only temporary, however, the home forwards soon returning to the attack. In their own half, the Saints were penalised, and BOUGHTON put the City further ahead with a good kick ten minutes after the resumption.

A clever dash by the visitors' threes brought danger to the home line, but smart tackling saved the situation. Haslemere attempted to drop a goal for Northampton but the effort failed.

Temporary relief to the City line was obtained by Roy James and Jack Stephens, but Weston, the visitors' captain, intercepted the pass, and for a time thwarted the movement. Soon afterwards, Gloucester again attacked strongly, James and Benbow together bringing play to the Saints' 25.

Northampton struggled hard to reduce the lead and pressed strongly, the home line having several narrow escapes. Thrilling open play was witnessed, but Gloucester showed no relaxation in their efforts, and once more got the upper hand.

Play was now of a ding-dong nature and both teams took a share of the attacking. The City were penalised just before time, and HARRIS reduced the arrears.

RESULT :  
GLOUCESTER ..... 3 goals (2p) (11 pts.)  
NORTHAMPTON ..... 1 goal (p) (3 pts.)

## REMARKS

Gloucester well deserved their victory over Northampton. The game was contested keenly, and was of a fast, open character.

The home team's supremacy was hardly ever seriously challenged, for Northampton were cleverly marked. The visitors were superior in the scrums, but Gloucester were the smarter in breaking up.

Millward had the distressing tendency of placing the ball at the feet of his forwards, and for this practice he was twice penalised.

Saxby, Seabrook, and Davies were constantly conspicuous, while the new recruit Cuffe also gave a fine display, as also did Jack Stephens and Tomlinson.

JC