

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1929

GLOUCESTER FAIL TO HOLD SERVICES
INFERIOR IN SPEED AND COMBINATION
FORWARDS PLAY ROUSING GAME
BAD CONDITIONS CAUSE MISTAKES

Gloucester made the long journey to Portsmouth to-day for the return fixture with the United Services, who were beaten at Kingsholm last month by 18 pts. to 8.

McCanlis and Boughton being unable to get away, the City again included Glyn Thomas and Gladwin in the side, and Dick Stephens, after a lengthy absence, reappeared at outside half.

The Services had a much stronger team out this afternoon, and Gloucester fully anticipated a keen struggle.

Teams :

GLOUCESTER

BACK : R. Gladwin.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. James, L. Abbey, Glyn Thomas, and R. N. Loveridge.

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

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

UNITED SERVICES

BACK : H. C. Cumberbatch.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. C. Miers, G. M. Sladen, D. St. C. Ford, and R. B. Maxwell.

HALF-BACKS : J. H. Forbes and C. R. Garrett.

FORWARDS : T. G. P. Crick (capt.), M. J. Brosnan, H. C. Browne, J. W. Forrest, L. S. Evans, J. W. Cuthbert, R. D. Watson, and W. C. Thomas.

In addition to Davies, Jack Stephens and Storrie were both unable to travel, the vacant positions at three-quarter being filled by L. Abbey and R. N. Loveridge.

In the Services team A. C. Miers and R. B. Maxwell came in for Freeman and Newman at three-quarter and R. D. Watson for Harry forward.

Miserable weather conditions prevailed and there were only a few hundred spectators present. The usual playing pitch was waterlogged and the match was played on the reserve ground, which was also very heavy.

THE GAME

The Services started but Thomas with a good kick at once put Gloucester on the attack. The City opened out from two successive scrums and the ball was handled neatly but the final transfers went astray. The Services were well held in succeeding play but at length their backs broke away nicely and gained thirty yards before being checked.

Sladen with a splendid run further improved but Maxwell failed to take a pass with an open line. Gloucester dribbled clear but the Services came back with a fine passing bout and Ford slipping the defence sent MAXWELL over with a good try. The goal kick was missed through a misunderstanding.

Gloucester showed up strongly forward on the restart, but when the ball got amongst the backs the home team were far superior, both in speed and combination. The City's tackling was very feeble at times, and Sladen was nearly through. After a strong burst Gloucester just managed to stave off a smart attack on the right, and with a flying kick reached the centre.

A big forward rush by the Services took them well down, where Gladwin effected a good save. A penalty brought temporary relief for the City, but they were not allowed to make much headway.

The Services were getting the ball from the scrums and loose, and despite the greasy state of the ball and ground, were not afraid to open out. Mistakes, however, spoiled several promising movements. Smart work by Stephens and a good run by Seabrook gave the City a splendid chance, but the passing went wrong at the critical moment.

Working well together the visiting forwards set up a hot attack, but Cumberbatch made a good save in front of the posts. Useful kicking enabled the Services to clear to the centre, where exchanges were keenly contested.

The pitch had churned up badly now and the subsequent play was mostly with the forwards. A high kick by Stephens was well followed up and Cumberbatch was tackled in possession. Off-side, however, lost the position and Gloucester were pressed in their own 25.

Here a penalty was awarded the Services but Forrest's kick was charged down. Useful touch finding by Gladwin and close following up by Hiam enabled Gloucester to get beyond half way, where a cross-kick gave the visitors a possible chance, but it was not accepted.

Gloucester were doing excellently just now forward, but the backs were not equal to their opponents in any one department. The Services had far more finish and from one lovely movement Ford crossed but a forward pass was ruled.

From the next scrum, however, the home backs again handled beautifully and MIERS beating James and Gladwin, scored a fine try. The place-kick failed.

The Services had the better of play up to the interval and nearly scored again following a forward rush.

HALF-TIME :
SERVICES 2 tries
GLOUCESTER Nil

Considering the adverse conditions, the football witnessed had been exceedingly good. Forward, Gloucester had fairly held their own in most phases, but the Services' backs held a commanding advantage, and but for bad luck in handling would have appreciably added to their lead of two tries.

Drizzling rain fell when the game was resumed, which made matters worse. Gloucester early got the ball out, but the backs could not do anything, and the Services set up a sharp attack. Gladwin went down well to the opposing forwards, and saved a dangerous situation.

The City were closely pressed on their line when Seabrook dribbled clear. The position was further improved with a splendid break-away by Seabrook, who dribbled to within ten yards of the line. Here Cumberbatch effected a wonderful save. Gloucester continued on the aggressive, and Abbey led another movement which ended in the ball being kicked over the line for a minor.

Saxby marked from the drop-out, and with a fine punt sent to touch a few yards out. The City now worked desperately for a try, but the defence prevailed.

At length Tomlinson got the ball away cleanly, and it went along the line to Loveridge, who, however, failed to cross.

Immediately after there was another strong attack, this time on the left, but James just failed to beat the defence. These were two chances which the Services would have utilised easily with their dash and speed on the wings.

A lucky flying kick which rolled to touch at midfield gave the Services a breather, and later they attacked with dashing forward work. The defence, however, held out.

With good forward play and a clever dribble down touch by James, Gloucester rushed to the other end, but they could not gain the desired opening.

Centre play followed for a time until Stephens punted high and across for Loveridge to get up and prevent a return. Gloucester thus gained a good attacking position, but wheeling the scrum the Services forwards came right away.

It was hard going on the treacherous surface, but both teams kept up the hot pace splendidly.

Gloucester were on top again now, the forwards working with great dash, but luck was against them. Gloucester had done the major portion of attacking this half, but the lack of scoring ability was very noticeable.

With a big combined effort the Services assumed the aggressive, and only superb tackling stopped Sladen and Ford.

From a loose scrum the Services' backs were again in possession, and MIERS, with a splendid dash for the corner, got the ball over the line though partly tackled by Abbey and Gladwin. No goal resulted.

RESULT :

SERVICES 3 tries (9 points)
GLOUCESTER Nil

EASY WIN FOR CITY SECONDS
CARDIFF SCOTTISH OUTPLAYED
BOUGHTON'S BRILLIANT DISPLAY

Cardiff Scottish were the visitors to Kingsholm this afternoon, when they were entertained by Gloucester A before a thin attendance. By the time fixed for the commencement of the game the weather had cleared up and the rain had ceased.

The home side made six changes in the selected team, L. H. Storrie, E. Voyce and J. Stephens taking the place of Loveridge, Abbey and McCanlis in the three-quarter line, and J. Wells, A. Webb and L. Meadows substituting Hemming, Franklin and Smith in the forwards.

The visitors kicked off, and Thompson at once obtained possession to rush into the visitors' half. Some hectic play followed, and the City team gradually beat back the visitors to their own 25. A forward rush, however, brought Cardiff relief, and play was transferred to the home half.

The visitors now got into their stride, and made matters warm for the home team. Gloucester tackled stubbornly, and were able to withstand the attack for a time, but eventually the defence was penetrated by P. Smith, the right centre, ten minutes from the start. The goal-kick failed.

Following this reverse, Gloucester replied vigorously, and fast forward rushes quickly brought the ball back to the visitors' quarters. Good tackling kept the visitors' line intact, though Cardiff had a narrow shave when Boughton just missed from a penalty.

Persistent effort was not long in bringing its reward, and from some scrambling play in the visitors' 25, Stephens broke through and crossed over for a try, which Boughton converted.

A temporary raid on the home quarters was brought to an untimely end by Stephens, who on obtaining possession, quickly passed to Thompson. With only the full-back to beat, he rushed from mid-field, and cleverly scored near the posts. Boughton added the goal points. Half-time arrived with play in mid-field.

Half-time :
Gloucester A 2 goals
Cardiff Scottish 1 try

On resuming, Gloucester at once set the pace, and carrying play dangerously near the visitors' line, Boughton put Gloucester further ahead with a dropped goal.

Play was now particularly keen, and not long afterwards, the visitors were penalised while Gloucester were pressing strongly. Boughton made no mistake with the kick, and gave the home side a lead of 14 points.

Gloucester were having by far the biggest share of the attacking; the visitors, while possessing plenty of energy and resource, proving far too erratic in their movements, and no match for the superior combined tactics of the home team. From some spirited play in mid-field, Pitt ran through to cross by the posts, Boughton again converting.

A minute later, the visitors' defence was again penetrated, this time by Stephens, who scored under the posts. Boughton for the fourth time added the goal points.

Cardiff rallied for a time, and confined the City to their own half. Success did not attend their efforts, however, and the game ended with the ball at mid-field.

Result :
Gloucester A 6 goals (1d. 1p.) (27 pts.)
Cardiff Scottish 1 try (3 pts.)