

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1929

CITY EXCEL

FINE WIN AGAINST OLD BLUES

CLEVER DISPLAY BY GLOUCESTER BACKS

The Old Blues were the visitors at Kingsholm this afternoon. Two changes were made in the home team, G. Foulkes and L. Abbey taking the place of Saxby and Loveridge, who are still on the injured list.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. James, J. Stephens, M. A. McCanlis, and L. Abbey.

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

FORWARDS : G. Foulkes, J. Davies, A. Carpenter, T. Hiam, F. Wadley, E. Comley, J. Hemming, and C. Cuffe.

OLD BLUES

BACK : W. H. Mills.

THREE-QUARTERS : T. G. Jennings, E. A. Hughes, R. A. Jones, and A. C. Bennett.

HALF-BACKS : H. E. Wales, S. H. Wales, and R. J. Rogers.

FORWARDS : J. N. Young, C. J. Hodgson, D. H. Rance, N. K. Payne, R. E. Peters, A. P. Hunter, and T. B. Radley.

Referee : Mr. J. Holder (Gloucester).

THE GAME

Following the heavy rain during the morning the ground was very heavy. Gloucester kicked off, and mid-field play followed, nothing of a spectacular nature happening for a time. A forward rush eventually brought play to the visitors' half, but a free-kick to the visitors eased the pressure. Later a movement on the right wing gave Gloucester a slight territorial advantage. Abbey, after accepting from McCanlis, however, was effectually tackled in the visitors' 25, and Gloucester were once again brought back to mid-field.

Shortly afterwards Gloucester again became the more aggressive, Dick Stephens and McCanlis being particularly prominent. Abbey, however, lost the transfer. For a time play was confined to the visitors' 25, and, after a slight repulse, Gloucester took the lead through FOULKES, who luckily crossed over near the corner. Boughton's kick failed.

A minute later the Old Blues pressed vigorously and, forcing Gloucester back to their quarters, penetrated the defence, RANCE breaking through near the posts. The goal-kick narrowly missed, the ball striking the upright.

Gloucester were not long before they again took the lead, and after some exciting exchanges JACK STEPHENS made a fine burst from near mid-field. Outrunning his opponents, he crossed over to score behind the posts. Boughton converted.

The Old Blues struggled hard, but for the most part they were defending. A smart movement down the left wing brought Gloucester dangerously near the visitors' line, and JAMES rushed over to put the home side further ahead with a try near the corner. Boughton added the goal points.

Mid-field play followed for a time, but Gloucester were having the better of the exchanges, and getting the ball in the scrums.

A free-kick to the visitors only afforded them temporary relief, and Gloucester were once more pressing strongly.

In some loose play McCanlis picked up the ball and transferred to J. Stephens, who dashed away to pass to JAMES, who scored behind the posts. Boughton converted.

Soon after Gloucester made a further dangerous raid down the right wing. Abbey, however, made a good attempt to cross over, but narrowly missed. Just before half-time HODGSON crossed over for the visitors for a try, but he failed to improve it.

HALF-TIME :
GLOUCESTER 3 goals, 1 try
OLD BLUES 2 tries

Gloucester's display in the opening half had fully justified their lead of 12 points at half time. The home threes were very much swifter, and more alert than their opponents, and made good use of the opportunities provided them.

On the resumption, Gloucester were not quite so successful, and in the opening stages, the visitors got the ball away from the scrums, and forced the home side to defend. On two or three occasions the visitors came very near to reducing their arrears, but clever tackling by the home backs preserved Gloucester's lead.

Eventually, the visitors were driven back to their own 25, but Mills, at full-back, was wide awake, and receiving from a kick by Boughton, promptly sent the ball into touch half-way down the field.

This temporary set-back was short-lived, for Gloucester quickly returned to the attack, some exciting football taking place near the visitors' line. Fortune did not favour Gloucester on this occasion, and only a touch-down resulted.

Gloucester still continued to be the most aggressive, and secured possession from a scrum near the visitors line, JACK STEPHENS running through to score by the posts. Boughton added the goal points.

A moment later, Gloucester went further ahead, again through JACK STEPHENS, who crossed over near the posts for his third try of the match. Boughton converted.

Exciting play followed, but Gloucester maintained their superiority, the game ending with play in mid-field.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 5 goals 1 try (28 pts.)
OLD BLUES 2 tries (6 pts.)

REMARKS

In spite of the disadvantages of a greasy ball, and a heavy ground, Gloucester gave a splendid exhibition, and were good value for their win. The home threes were in fine form, and to their skill and resource must be attributed the credit for so substantial a victory.

Gloucester played with better understanding than did the Old Blues, who were rarely able to evade the keen marking of the home team. The visitors put up a good game, and showed a slight improvement during the second half, but were unable to withstand the City's vigorous attack.