

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1930

GLOUCESTER 3 Pts., NEWPORT 6 Pts.

CITY'S BRILLIANT FORWARDS

GREAT FIGHT IN SECOND HALF

BUT DEFENCE JUST HOLDS

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester were short of Crichton-Miller and Carpenter forward at Newport to-day, and the loss of the services of these two fine players in a department where the Welshmen are exceptionally strong was not encouraging for the City.

Fixtures between the clubs date back to the early eighties, but Gloucester had not beaten their rivals at Newport for something like 47 years! But records are out to be broken and followers of the City had not forgotten that last season a surprise win was gained over Cardiff at Cardiff Arms Park – the first Gloucester victory on the ground since 1893.

This was Gloucester's third engagement of the season with Welsh opponents, Cardiff and Llanely having been met at Kingsholm. The Welsh Metropolitans were beaten by 17 points to 10, and a draw of five points each was made with Llanely.

Newport were undefeated until a fortnight ago, when they lost at home to Oxford University, and last week they fell at Cardiff. Gloucester's three reverses were against Northampton, Bristol and Leicester.

Rain fell all the morning, and the playing pitch was rendered very heavy in places; weather conditions generally were miserable and affected the attendance. There were less than 2,000 spectators present when the teams took the field.

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : J. T. Andrews, G. Davies, M. A. McCanlis, and Roy James (capt.).

HALF-BACKS : F. Price and Don Meadows.

FORWARDS : F. Wadley, T. Hiam, E. Comley, F. Russell, J. Hemming, J. Davies, L. E. Saxby, and L. Franklin.

NEWPORT

BACK : W. Everson.

THREE-QUARTERS : K. Watkins, R. B. Jones, J. R. Edwards, and S. J. Mountain.

HALF-BACKS : A. R. Ralph and C. J. Jerman.

FORWARDS : E. J. Shiner, H. Peacock, H. C. Day, W. C. Morgan, F. H. G. Evans, R. Green, J. C. Slade, and K. Matthews.

Referee : Mr. S. Thatcher (Swansea).

THE GAME

Newport lost the toss, and from the kick-off the ball bounced into touch well inside the Gloucester half. The home forwards heeled from the first scrum, and Ralph threw out a reverse pass cleverly. But the ball rolled badly for the centres, and nothing was done.

Immediately after J. Davies was penalised for off-side at the scrum, and EVERSON taking a place ten yards from the centre line landed a splendid goal. Thus in less than five minutes Newport were three points up. Lucky, perhaps, but the kick deserved reward.

Gloucester resumed strongly and Hiam forced a minor from a punt over the home line.

A CHANCE MISSED

Following the drop-out the Newport forwards shone with loose footwork, and play was taken to the City 25. Here Ralph, from a pass by Jerman, raced through brilliantly, and worked out a perfect opening for Mountain, but the wing man muffed the ball, and a certain try was lost. Newport continued to do all the attacking, but the defence held out. Ralph was again prominent with clever work, but the subsequent handling went astray.

By forward bursts Gloucester made slight headway, but the City could not cope with the brilliant attacks of the opposition, and from one combined passing run WATKINS raced over in the corner with a good try. Everson failed with the goal-kick.

FAST GAME

Play was fast on the restart, and Gloucester gained a footing in the home half. Ralph, however, sent them back with a fine touch kick to beyond the centre. Here G. Davies marked, and following up his punt forced Jones to pass back to Everson to gain a relief kick.

Newport were playing bright and open football, and so far the Gloucester backs had done very little. Eventually the City forwards heeled, but Price swung out a wild pass yards away from Meadows, and McCanlis was lucky to clear. The game was well contested, but in favour of Newport, who were dangerous on several occasions.

A WONDERFUL SAVE

Faulty handling by the Newport backs allowed Gloucester to dribble through and past Everson, but Edwards got back and effected a wonderful save and clearance. The visitors were doing better, and the forwards shone with good footwork. Everson, however, came to the rescue at the critical moment and checked. The wing man, kicking, sent the ball to Andrews, who ran finely for 30 yards before being upset.

Gloucester were now worrying their opponents a good deal, but they failed to gain an opening. Newport attacked again on the left through Ralph, but they were beaten off and centre play followed.

A BRILLIANT RUSH

Twice G. Davies had hard lines in knocking on after interceptions, with only Everson in front. The struggle forward was very keen and there was little in it.

Then, in a brilliant breakaway, led by Franklin, Gloucester went right to the other end. Attempts to check the rush failed, and the ball was taken in front of the home goal. Here Everson was tackled in possession, and was penalised for not playing the ball, and from an easy position BOUGHTON landed a neat goal.

This effort was a fine one, Franklin's splendid work being well backed up by the forwards and the backs.

HALF-TIME :

NEWPORT	1 goal (p.)	1 try
GLOUCESTER	1 goal (p.)	

Gloucester made a splendid recovery in the last quarter of an hour, the forwards doing exceptionally well against the very keen opposition. Behind the scrum, however, Newport were clearly superior at all points. Passes, however, went astray at critical moments, and with a little luck Gloucester might easily have taken the lead.

With only three points separating the teams the game was in an interesting position, and the second half was resumed with great vigour. Newport early broke away with passing, but Andrews stopped them.

Franklin being penalised for off-side Everson prepared for a place-kick at goal, but just putting his toe to the ball he picked up and raced for the line with Watkins in attendance. The home captain's transfer, however, was not accepted, and the ball rolling loose, Gloucester kicked to touch.

MAINLY FORWARD WORK

About mid-field strenuous forward work ensued, in which Gloucester got the upper hand. The City eventually forced a minor, and later some big exchange kicking between Boughton and Everson twice ended in favour of the Newport man. The standard of play had fallen off, and was very close and mainly with the forwards. The visitors held their own in the heaviest exchanges, the pack playing splendidly under the leadership of Saxby. The latter broke away from a scrum to Everson, who had to turn the ball to touch at the 25. Continuing to work grandly, the City forwards went in a body for the line, but just missed scoring. There was a possible chance a minute later, but Meadows failed to pick up with his backs well placed.

NEWPORT OVERPOWERED

Newport were overpowered now, and Gloucester taking full advantage attacked resolutely with desperate forward bursts. Again it seemed the defence would be beaten, but the situation was saved at the critical moment. It was stirring football forward, with Newport outplayed in the loose, after a serious spell of defence. The home backs at length got away, Watkins cross punting after passing the half-way line. Gloucester, however, cleared with short rushes back. Newport returned with a combined passing movement, but Mountain was thrown to touch two yards from the line. Gloucester quickly eased the pressure through Boughton, and play was vigorously fought out at midfield.

Newport tried another attack, but they were stopped effectively. Saxby and Franklin dribbled out splendidly, and Everson was in difficulties. It was hard going, and the concluding stages were very exciting, Gloucester playing up desperately to save or win the game. Ralph once broke clear for Newport, but he was beautifully tackled by Boughton. To the end Gloucester had the better of the exchanges but failed to score.

RESULT :

NEWPORT 1 goal (p) 1 try (6 pts.)
GLOUCESTER 1 goal (p) (3 pts.)

REMARKS

It was a great struggle for supremacy, Gloucester experiencing very hard lines in not at least sharing the honours, The Newport forwards were played to a standstill at times in the second half, and their line had several narrow escapes.

It was a real triumph for the City pack, who were great in the loose and tackled in deadly style. Saxby and Franklin were the notable performers in the open, but in the terrific exchanges at close quarters every man did his share.

Behind the scrum Newport were easily the cleverer side, though a number of passing movements went astray. Ralph was outstanding for the winners, whilst McCanlis and G. Davies tackled with deadly effect for Gloucester. Boughton and Everson both did well at full-back.

UNITED LOSE AT HOME

NEWPORT THE BETTER SIDE

Gloucester United had strong opponents in Newport United at Kingsholm this afternoon. Of the visitors' team at least seven had turned out for the first team this season. Gloucester made two changes, S. Edwards and A. Rea coming into the team. Newport's captain G. Goldsworthy was unable to turn out owing to an injury.

Gloucester United : L. Masters; A. Spackman, G. Orpin, L. Abbey, and R. N. Loveridge; A. Shelley and R. Stephens; G. Fowke, S. Edwards, N. Powell, H. J. Hyett, K. Fisher, F. H. Merrett, H. Houselander, and A. Rea.

Newport United : G. Thompson; D. J. M. Campbell, R. Panting, G. Scott, N. Berry; L. Clarke and R. Carter; D. E. J. Hughes, P. F. Bunce, W. J. Jackson, H. T. Phillips, J. Evans, A. Shiner, W. R. Newton, and K. Wood.

Gloucester attacked in the opening stages and pressed hard in the Newport 25. The home forwards who got the ball in the scrum could not heel. They were awarded a free for offside, and Stevens with a good opportunity to score kicked badly. Newport made the best of the chance to relieve, but the Gloucester forwards took the ball back again. The threes handled badly and another chance was lost.

Judicious kicking by Newport took play into the home half and Masters relieved with a free kick. Loveridge had a shot at a drop goal when getting possession near the visitors' 25, but the ball went dead, and play returned to the centre. Stephens gained more ground with a good touch. Loveridge opened the home side's account with a good goal from a free kick for off-side.

Immediately following this Abbey made a bold dash, but was brought down when he seemed likely to break through. Berry answered with a breakaway for Newport, but off-side spoiled the movement. Master and Loveridge sent Gloucester to the attack with good kicks, but Newport kept them out brilliantly.

Stephens, Abbey, and Loveridge made another strong effort and the ball coming out from the scrum to the home backs, Spackman was unlucky in failing at a dropped goal.

Newport three's made their first real effort of the game and a round of well taken passes sent them to midfield, but again off-side spoiled their work.

They were rewarded a few minutes later when the ball going out to the left wing, Berry touched down in the corner. Evans failed with the kick. Orpin saved a further attempt on the left in the nick of time, but the ball went straight from the line out to the left and Campbell got over for Evans to convert.

HALF-TIME :

Gloucester United 1 goal (d)
Newport [United] 1 goal 1 try

Rain was falling heavily, and the slippery ground and ball had a marked effect on the play. The Newport forwards soon got busy with their feet, and in a clever dribble took the ball almost to the Gloucester line. Gloucester stood firm, however, and the forwards sent Newport back to half-way. Shelley broke away, but the visiting back, gaining possession, sent the ball dead. Gloucester attacked on the other wing, but the Newport defence was still sound, although it had some narrow escapes.

Stephens led a rush, but again after two Newport backs had slipped with the ball in their hands it went dead. There was a stoppage at this point when the referee was hit by the ball which had been kicked by a Newport defender. He was soon able to continue. K. Fisher was next prominent with another brilliant attack, but Gloucester seemed unable to touch down, the ball continually going dead.

They were pressing hotly now, and the Newport half being off-side at the ten yards scrum, Loveridge again kicked a goal.

Newport, although still leading, made desperate efforts to increase their score, and Gloucester took the ball to the Newport line, but the Gloucester men just could not score. The ball continually went dead.

Stephens, Masters and Loveridge played good games, and the former, although he made one or two mistakes, was always in the forefront of the attack. Newport were the more finished side.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER UTD. 6 Pts.

NEWPORT UTD. 11 Pts.