

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1930

GLOUCESTER 8 Pts., NORTHAMPTON 3 Pts.

DISORGANISED CITY TEAM'S GREAT FIGHT

BRILLIANT SECOND-HALF RECOVERY

EARLIER REVERSE AVENGED

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester, who lost to Northampton at Kingsholm in September by 11 points to 8, had a third of the regular side away for the return game this afternoon, the absentees including McCanlis, G. Davies, Saxby, Carpenter, and Crichton-Miller.

More disappointments were in store for the City team this morning. Joe Davies had to cry off, and Andrews missed his train.

This necessitated Franklin playing at three-quarter and the introduction of H. J. Hyett and N. Powell forward.

There was one change in the Northampton side, J. R. Adams for W. Green.

Northampton, who have been badly hit this season owing to injuries to players, were also weakly represented, only three members of the back division who played at Gloucester being available.

E. Coley and Dr. Jenkins were also absent from the forward ranks. With such disorganised sides the result was regarded as a very open one.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. Spackman, Roy James (capt.), L. Franklin and L. Abbey.

HALF-BACKS : F. Price and D. Meadows.

FORWARDS : F. Wadley, Dr. Perkins, E. Comley, J. Hemming, F. Russell, T. Hiam, H. J. Hyatt, and N. Powell.

NORTHAMPTON

BACK : W. Taylor.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. C. B. Forge, C. Slow, J. H. Treen, and G. H. Bailey.

HALF-BACKS : J. Millward and T. G. Cleaver.

FORWARDS : R. J. Longland, A. Freeman, W. Watkins, T. Harris, W. M. Jackson, W. H. Weston, M. Jelley, and J. R. Adams.

Referee : Mr. W. J. Llewellyn (Bridgend).

THE GAME

The afternoon was fine, but the playing pitch was bad in places after the recent rain. There were only 2,000 spectators present when the teams took the field one minute late.

The formation of the Gloucester scrum had to be completely changed owing to the absentees. At three-quarter, James and Franklin played centre, with Abbey and Spackman on the wings.

It was one of the weakest teams on paper Gloucester had sent away for a long time, and one wondered how the combination would shape.

Northampton started strongly, Treen being early prominent with a strong run. Boughton, however, cleared finely.

HOME SIDE PRESS

A good kick by Spackman and a splendid rush by the City forwards took play to the home 25. Here Northampton's backs handled smartly, and Bailey sprinted well and punted, only to see Boughton make a clever mark. His kick found touch nicely, but Northampton's backs gained more ground with passing.

So far the Gloucester forwards had failed to get the ball in the set scrums, and the backs had nothing to do.

Millward with a neat pick-up looked dangerous, but he punted too hard and Spackman touched down. Gloucester were hard pressed for a long time, but the home backs fumbling the forwards rushed clear.

CLEVER INTER-PASSING

The game was very fast but all the back play was with Northampton. Clever inter-passing on the right wing saw Forge make a splendid dash for the line, but he was pushed into touch just in time.

Northampton continued to do all the attacking and only a fine defence kept them from scoring. A good kick by James eased the pressure for Gloucester, and some capital loose footwork took them well inside the home 25. The City forwards, however, could not get the ball to their backs. For a scrum infringement Northampton were penalised, but Boughton's shot for goal fell short.

With strong play, Gloucester confined operations to their opponents' half, but no decent opening came along. Northampton were far more enterprising, and the backs were continually employed. Forge and Bailey, on their respective wings looked dangerous, and the visitors' tackling was very close.

After a spell of severe pressure, James brought relief for Gloucester with a beautiful touch kick, and the forwards further improved.

EXCITING EXCHANGES

Immediately Northampton raced back with a passing run, Bailey just failing to get clear. A fine run by Meadows put Gloucester well down, and exciting exchanges followed at mid-field. Northampton at length broke away beautifully, Forge putting in a grand dash. Franklin, however, effected a splendid tackle. Inside their 25 Gloucester were penalised for off-side, and HARRIS landed a neat goal.

GLOUCESTER UNLUCKY

From the re-start Gloucester went right away, and Taylor was very lucky in clearing. With a determined dash the City got very close, a touchdown being awarded. Northampton rushed out of danger, and keen play followed at the centre. Gloucester, by close footwork, attacked, but Bailey, with a splendid run, went to the other end of the field, where he was tackled from behind.

Gloucester had another bad few minutes, but a penalty taken by Boughton brought much-needed relief. The City kept things moving in lively fashion, and their best work was forward. A brilliant piece of combination between Meadows, James, and Spackman just failed, and Franklin had hard lines on the other wing.

Gloucester struggled hard for a try, but was *[sic]* not rewarded, and just before the interval Boughton missed a penalty shot for goal.

HALF-TIME :

Northampton	1 goal
Gloucester	Nil

Gloucester's defence had been a great feature of the first half, though five minutes before the interval the City attacked resolutely and should have been on equal terms. The visitors had been hopelessly beaten for possession in the scrums and it was rarely Price and Meadows had a chance. The Northampton backs had put in some fine work, but finish was lacking.

GLOUCESTER DRAW LEVEL

On the restart even play ensued for a time until Taylor fumbled a long kick by Hemming. Scrums followed on the home 25, from one of which Price secured and fed Meadows. The latter sent to James, who fed SPACKMAN, and with a determined burst the wing man beat Taylor and scored in the corner. Boughton failed to convert.

Gloucester played up in fine style on the resumption and Boughton was seen to advantage. A clever movement by Price and Meadows gave Gloucester's left wing another chance, but this time Spackman failed to accept James's transfer. From near their own goal-line Northampton started passing, Bailey reaching mid-field before being checked.

DOGGED WORK

It was hot work with the City doing exceptionally well in the loose. A pass back to Boughton went astray, and with Northampton rushing well they were nearly over.

A brilliant break through by Meadows completely changed the position of play, and one minute later the same player nearly pushed his way to the line. Gloucester made desperate efforts to cross the line, but were pushed off.

Exciting play followed. Abbey intercepting, got clear to the full-back, but was brought down from behind. James was next prominent with a sharp burst, but was held up just in time. Northampton broke away with a splendid passing run, Forge being stopped at the centre.

GLOUCESTER ATTACK

It was Gloucester's turn to attack, and the City made a fine attempt to get through on the left, Spackman failing by a yard or so. Northampton were kept on the defensive for a time, but their tackling was sound. With a forward rush the home team reached the centre, but James put Gloucester in position again with a long touch-finder.

GLORIOUS TRY AND KICK

Northampton worked out a few yards, but Gloucester heeling, a perfect passing movement followed between Price, Meadows, Franklin, and ABBEY, ending in the latter dashing over for a good try. From near the touchline, Boughton landed a grand goal, and Gloucester were five points up, and well deserved their lead on their form this half.

Northampton had a chance of equalising soon after the resumption from a cross-kick by Bailey but it was missed, and Gloucester touched down. The closing stages were keenly fought out, but Gloucester held their own splendidly, and gained a great victory.

RESULT :

GLoucester 1 goal, 1 try (8 pts.)

NORTHAMPTON 1 goal (p.) (3 pts.)

REMARKS

Gloucester made a wonderful recovery in the second half and their surprise victory was in every way deserved. The City's defence in the first half against repeated attacks was magnificent.

In the second half Gloucester were clearly superior, and the backs getting more of the ball, they accomplished some fine work. Price and Meadows were particularly smart, the latter making several fine runs. The three-quarters more than fulfilled expectations and all did well individually. Boughton was again in splendid form; Taylor, the home custodian being poor in comparison.

Of the Gloucester forwards, Comley, Wadley, Russell and Hemming were the more prominent, and the recruits all put in a lot of sound work.

Next week's matches : Boxing Day, v. Old Merchant Taylors; Saturday, v. Cheltenham.

UNITED PILE UP POINTS

LISTER'S DEFENCE POOR

Gloucester United were weakened by the calls of the premier team when they fielded against Lister's at Kingsholm this afternoon.

The home team led off, but a forward rush threatened their line until Masters cleared with a useful kick. Another rush followed a midfield scrum, and Masters relieved again with a nice kick to touch. A score seemed imminent for the United when the forwards followed up a clearing kick by Bound, the Wycliffe College boy, but the movement ended in a scrum.

The opening score came from Listers with a fine try by Holford, who cut away in great style to go over easily under the posts. Williams added the goal points.

The United replied with a sharp attack, but it was smothered by keen defensive work. Repeated efforts by the United failed at the last moment, until Orpin gathered in the visitors' 25 and snapped up a try. Masters had hard lines with his kick, the ball striking the post.

Towards the end of the first half, Fifield at scrum-half, slipped over from a scrum almost on the goal line. Masters' attempt at goal failed.

Half-time :

Gloucester United2 tries

Lister's 1 goal

The second half soon saw the United further ahead, Bound got away with a smart evasive sprint, and Storrie received. He shot through the defence cleverly, and finished up a nice effort behind the posts. The kick failed.

Bound made a fine run along the line and followed his own kick up. He had hard luck to be beaten for the touch.

Immediately afterwards Fifield snapped up another try from a scrum near the goal line, and this time Masters was successful.

A few minutes later, Foulkes added another unconverted try following a scrum in the visitors' 25.

It was only a question of minutes before Storrie was off along the line to put up another try. Masters' kick fell short.

Lister's made determined attacks and forced the United into their own 25. There Voyce took the ball up with a fine long sprint, and gave to Storrie and he touched down behind the posts – a splendid effort by both players.

A second goal followed for the United, Foulkes receiving and beating his man to go behind the posts. Masters was successful with the kick.

The closing stages were played in fog. Gladwin went along the line with a nice sprint, and Voyce dodged over with a clever try. Masters added the goal points on time.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER UNITED ... 3 goals 6 tries (33 pts.)
LISTER'S 1 goal (5 pts.)