

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1931

GLOUCESTER WIN AFTER GREAT STRUGGLE

A THRILLING SECOND HALF

UNITED SERVICES RECOVER WELL

CITY STAVE OFF FIERCE ATTACKS

With the exception of Saxby, Gloucester were well represented for the return game with the United Services at Portsmouth this afternoon.

Last year the City gained a well-deserved victory with a weakened side, and in the first game between the teams at Kingsholm this season Gloucester were returned the winners by 9 points to 6.

The Services fielded a strong side, and recent improved form suggested Gloucester would be seriously extended.

There was a late change, Boughton being unable to make the journey and Hiam took the vacant position in the back row of the scrum.

GLOUCESTER

BACK: L. Masters.

THREE-QUARTERS: Roy James (capt.), A. E. Brookes, M. A. McCanlis, and L. Abbey.

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

FORWARDS: F. Wadley, A. Carpenter, E. Comley, F. Russell, P. Hordern, L. Franklin, Dr. Steel-Perkins, and T. Hiam.

There was a further change in the Gloucester team. At the request of the Rugby Union Peter Hordern (Newport), who has been selected for England against Ireland as wing forward, was included to give him some practice. Hiam went into the second row of the pack, Hemming standing down.

The Services fielded a strong XV., including Ford, Lane, Brown, Forrest, and Hodgkin, who played for Hants., in the County Semi-Final. Gosling (full-back) could not play owing to an injury.

Referee, Dr. Glynn Hughes, London.

The afternoon turned out fine and there were about 1,000 spectators. The ground was in bad condition, being a mud-heap for a length of 50 yards in front of the grand stand.

Gloucester started and from the first line Perkins got the ball away to Meadows, but the latter's pass to McCanlis was ruled forward. Close scrums followed at the centre, where the City were penalised, but Meadows replied with a fine punt to touch.

The Services heeled smartly and neat passing put them on the attack. Meadows, however, opened out from inside his 25 and James brought off a 30 yards run and cross-kick. Forrest was tackled in possession, but managed to get the ball away to a colleague, who sent to touch.

A FINE RUSH

Gloucester were again penalised for off-side but little ground was gained by the kick. A fine rush by the visiting forwards carried play to Services' quarters, where the home backs were twice lucky in clearing.

Gloucester maintained the pressure and Brookes moved ahead and short punted. Brookes again came into prominence with a clever pass to James, who cut inside and punted high, but his forwards were ruled offside, and with a penalty kick the home team relieved.

A GREAT DASH

Gloucester were heeling cleanly now, and the backs handled smartly, but could not find an opening. Brilliant passing by the City backs saw James make a great dash for the corner, but the captain was held up a yard outside. Immediately the City backs were off again, but Abbey was well tackled by Ford.

The Services with a loose forward rush reached mid-field, where they were nicely checked by James. Fielding from a kick in the open, Brookes ran well, and passed to McCanlis, who fed Abbey. The latter cross-punted, but Brickley marked in face of pressure.

The Services progressed with forward rushes to mid-field, where Maundsell opened out to Wright, who dashed ahead and fed FORD. The Scottish international put on full pace, and beating Masters went on to score in a good position for Forrest to land a goal. The try was a good one, and showed the opportunism of the Services, who had not been out of their half for 20 minutes.

On the restart Forrest early had a shot for a penalty, but kicked all along the ground. Franklin led a splendid loose rush by the City for some 30 yards, and from a penalty Meadows just failed to drop a goal.

CLOSELY MARKED

Gloucester continued to have the better of the exchanges forward, and the backs tried hard; but the tackling was too good, McCanlis being closely marked. The Services gained relief with lucky kicking, and a failure to pick up by the Gloucester men led to a sharp attack on the visitors' line.

Play was closely contested for a time, but Gloucester eventually broke away, and picking up near the line STEEL-PERKINS forced himself over the line with a good try, which James converted.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER	1 goal
UNITED SERVICES	1 goal

Gloucester well deserved their equalising points for in the first half the City had had far more of the game. The Services were short of Wright, temporarily injured when Perkins scored, but just before this their line had had several narrow escapes.

The Gloucester forwards played a fine game against hefty opposition, and for the most part commanded control of the ball in the scrums.

Behind, Price and Meadows opened out well, and the strongest wing was Brookes and James, who combined cleverly. McCanlis so far had done little.

GLOUCESTER GO AHEAD

The ground had cut up badly now, and made it hard work for the forwards.

The second half opened sensationally, for from the kick off, Price gathered, and fed Brookes, who raced on, and passed to James. The captain broke clear away, and punted, and McCANLIS backing up took the ball on the bounce, and went over with a fine try. Steel-Perkins converted.

Gloucester played clever football on the resumption, the forwards and backs giving the ball plenty of air, and the result was that the Services were continually on the defensive.

EIGHT POINTS UP

James made another fine run, and Brookes and McCanlis also shone with capital efforts. Twice Gloucester just missed scoring, but the persistent attacks were rewarded when from an opening by Meadows, McCanlis sent ABBEY in with a corner try. Steel-Perkins missed the goal kick, but Gloucester were eight points up.

After this second reverse in ten minutes the Services improved, and the forwards, combining in a loose rush, they became dangerous.

The Gloucester defence, however, was very sound, Masters making no mistake at full-back.

SEVERE PRESSURE

Despite sterling all-round work, Gloucester were confined to their half, the Services' forwards heeling well and the backs making praiseworthy efforts to clear the defence. Ford especially ran strongly, but succumbed to numbers. McCanlis did splendid work in defence.

The City had fallen off wretchedly in the last ten minutes, and play went all in favour of the home team. Forrest missed a shot at goal from a penalty, but BUCKLEY was more successful a little later with a fine kick. Going all out the Services quickly added to their score with a brilliant try by FORD, but Buckley failed with the goal kick.

Only two points now separated the teams, and the last few minutes were desperately fought out. Perkins missed a penalty by a yard, and then the Services went to the other end and nearly scored. In an exciting finish Gloucester attacked strongly, but could not add to their score.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 2 goals 1 try (13 Pts.)
UNITED SERVICES ... 2 goals (1p.) 1 try (11 Pts.)

REMARKS

It was a splendid game, and the closeness of the scoring provided an exciting end. Gloucester appeared to have the game well in hand ten minutes after the interval, but the Services came with a wonderful recovery, and nearly snatched the lead.

There was a lot of fine open football despite the conditions, and the Gloucester backs gave their best display of the season. McCanlis showed a great improvement in the second half, and tackled magnificently. Brookes and James formed a strong attacking wing, and Abbey did well against Lane, the Hants. wing. Of the forwards, Comley, Wadley, Hordern and Perkins were always noticeable. Masters was safe, but found Ford a difficult man to tackle.

UNITED'S NARROW VICTORY
CLOSE GAME WITH HEREFORD

Gloucester United made three changes in their team to meet Hereford this afternoon at Kingsholm. Masters travelled with the First XV., and Gladwin took his place at back. J. Thomas, of Barnwood, came in for Parker, and Wakefield completed the forwards.

Gloucester began with several attempts to open out, but the passing was wild, and they achieved nothing. Hereford at last heeled, and their threes went well away. J. Bishop was hauled down a yard from the line, and Hereford failed with a free kick for off-side.

Keeping play in the home half, Hereford opened the scoring with a beautiful dropped goal from Groom.

Gloucester made repeated attacks, but the back line was at fault. Spackman made a brilliant break-away, and passing back to Orpin, the latter got over wide out. Gladstone failed with the kick; and he again missed with a free in front of goal.

HALF-TIME :
HEREFORD 1 dropped goal
GLOUCESTER UNITED 1 try

Orpin had exceedingly hard luck upon the resumption, for after cutting clean through he got well away and was brought down only a few feet from the line.

Gladwin had to go off with an injury to his knee after executing a fine-length touch kick. Gloucester were pressing hard and their efforts were rewarded with a try by Storrie. Ken Smith just failed to convert.

Gloucester continued to attack but their passing was still weak. Thomas and D'Aguiar went near, and the home backs looked dangerous until Hereford relieved with a run to mid-field.

Hereford's left wing, Barnes, got well away, and after Gladwin and Storrie had failed to bring him down, Spackman running from the other wing tackled him and saved the position.

RESULT :

GLO'STER UNITED 2 tries (6 points)

HEREFORD1 goal (d.) (4 points)

JC