

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1931

GLOUCESTER 16 POINTS, LEICESTER 8 POINTS

LEICESTER CHECKED AT KINGSHOLM

SPLENDID OPEN GAME

GLOUCESTER'S WELL DESERVED VICTORY

Gloucester, earlier in the season, suffered a crushing defeat at Leicester by 27 points to 8, but with a much stronger side out this afternoon, hopes were entertained that this result would be reversed.

Leicester have been showing brilliant form recently, and in successive weeks defeated Harlequins 32-3, Bedford 23-0, and Coventry 13-0. At Kingsholm, however, the Midlanders have rarely showed their true form, and the City can point to a large preponderance of victories.

The visitors were weak at three-quarter, where Greenlees, Farndon and Thomas were absentees; whilst George Beamish, the famous Irish International, engaged with the Royal Air Force against the Army, was out of the forwards. Gloucester were at full strength.

Teams :

GLOUCESTER

FULL-BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : C. C. Tanner, Graham Davies, M. A. McCanlis, and Roy James (capt.).

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

FORWARDS : F. Wadley, A. Carpenter, E. Comley, J. Hemming, Dr. Steele-Perkins, Joe Davies, L. E. Saxby, and L. Franklin.

LEICESTER

BACK : R. J. Barr.

THREE-QUARTERS : D. E. Morris, A. Buckingham, S. F. Herbert, and S. A. Smith.

HALF-BACKS : J. A. Bolus and B. C. Gadney.

FORWARDS : D. J. Norman, F. D. Prentice, R. G. Coleman, G. P. Vallence, S. H. Saunders, R. A. K. Weiner, P. S. Clarke, and A. H. Greenwood.

Referee : Mr. W. Llewellyn (Bridgend).

THE GAME

The attendance was about 4,000 when the teams took the field ten minutes late. James started for Gloucester, and opening play was contested inside the Leicester half. Fifield early got the ball away to Meadows, and McCanlis made a smart dash through, but unfortunately lost the ball. Leicester quickly replied through Gadney, but the latter's pass was captured by a Gloucester man, who ran back. Hemming later broke away, but hesitated with Tanner close up, and nothing resulted.

GOOD TRY FOR LEICESTER

Fast play followed, Bolus gaining ground with a good punt from a reverse pass by Gadney. The City lost ground with a wild transfer, James recovered, and with a dodging run and kick, brought relief. Off-side by the Gloucester forwards, however, spoiled a possible opening.

Gloucester showed smart play on the left, and Davies got clear, but touch was given. The City forwards put in some good work and the exchanges were keen at the centre. The City opened out through Fifield, but G. Davies missed, and Buckingham gathering, broke away to Boughton. COLEMAN was well up, and accepting a nice pass, went strongly for the line. McCanlis tackled his man outside, but was unable to prevent a try. Prentice landed a goal, and Leicester were five points up.

CITY'S RESPONSE

Gloucester resumed, and good work by Fifield saw the Gloucester backs in motion. Tanner ran strongly and handed off Morris, but was tackled from behind. He, however, let the ball go to G. Davies, who went ahead, only to succumb to numbers.

Leicester worked out of danger, but Gloucester returned to the attack. Clever combination allowed G. Davies to break through, and after passing and re-passing between the centre and James, DAVIES dashed over in the left corner with a capital try. Boughton missed the goal points, though the effort was a good one.

Leicester were aided by the big wind and kicking with judgment had the better of the exchanges for a time. Boughton, however, gave little away with his returns. Both sides opened out fairly well, but their transfers went astray at times. Gloucester were pressed on their 25, and James, in trying to clear, was forced over his own line. A scrum followed, and Leicester heeled, but the pass went wide of Buckingham, who failed to pick up.

Meadows at once seized upon the ball, and McCanlis and James in turn handled. McCanlis again received, and cross-kicking Wadley took the ball and broke clear. FRANKLIN positioned himself ready for the pass, and with a sharp run scored near the posts – a brilliant try, the combined work covering three-parts the length of the ground. Boughton easily landed a goal, and Gloucester were leading 8-5.

Gloucester played up strongly on the resumption, Fifield doing excellent work at the scrum against Gadney. G. Davies failed to take his pass with a possible chance of Tanner doing something, and Leicester took up the running. Back Gloucester came, being assisted by two penalties. From a long kick, which the wind carried more than half the length of the field, the ball went over the home line, but McCanlis easily won the race for a touch down. Soon afterwards Greenwood missed a try in the corner through failing to ground the ball.

CITY ATTACK STRONGLY

From this point Gloucester attacked strongly. Meadows brought off a sensational run, dodging man after man. He reached Barr, when he passed to Franklyn, who raced over, but a forward pass was given.

A couple of minutes later G. Davies brought off a fine run and pass to Franklin, who again crossed, but the referee ruled forward – hard lines for the City.

Leicester, whose forwards hung about off-side a good deal, were able to stave off disaster with useful kicks, but the pack could not get far when in possession. Fifield continued to supply a good service, and Steele-Perkins was prominent with good work in the line-out. The game was exceedingly fast, with Leicester having the better just now.

LEICESTER EQUALISE

Twice the visitors were well away, but the tackling was very sound. Once Buckingham cut through beautifully, but Boughton brought his man down splendidly. Leicester, however, persevered and slackness on the part of the City, allowed VALLENCE to break away for the line. He was tackled and brought down, but managed to cross with a try, though the referee's decision did not find favour with the crowd on the bank. The goal-kick failed and the teams were level.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal, 1 try

LEICESTER 1 goal, 1 try

Gloucester should have held a lead on the play in the first half for they had the better of the exchanges. The City resumed with a strong attack, and the Leicester line had a narrow escape in the first minute. Having gained a splendid position, the City pressed home their advantage, and from a line-out STEELE-PERKINS scored. Boughton missed the goal kick.

TWO OPENINGS MISSED

Leicester gained a footing in the home half from the restart, but J. Davies kicked out, and the ball travelled to the other end, where it went to touch. From this point the City had two good openings, but failed to accept. Saxby did touch down following a charge down of a kick, but the referee's whistle had blown. Meadows later tried a drop at goal, but failed to raise the ball.

LEICESTER DO WELL

The visitors, with clever handling, gradually worked to the City 25. where a penalty was given Leicester. Prentice took a shot for goal, but could not cover the cross-bar. James took the risk of running out instead of touching down, and got the ball to touch at the 25. The Leicester forwards were rushing matters at this stage, and play was confined to the home half. Boughton did some fine relief kicking, and Tanner made a beautiful tackle of Morris when the latter was well on the move.

STRONG GLOUCESTER RUSHES

The football continued very interesting with plenty of open play. Gloucester, with strong forward rushes and well-judged kicking, took up the aggressive again, and Leicester were hard pressed.

From a big punt by Boughton, Tanner followed up at a great pace, and charged into Barr just as he got rid of the ball. Fifield showed enterprise, starting an attack from a long throw in the centre of the field, but it broke down. Clarke (Leicester) returned now, and Gloucester put in a strong attack on the left. Finish, however, was lacking.

Leicester were twice called upon to clear from dangerous positions, which they did successfully, and centre play followed. Further progress was made, but Steele-Perkins replied with a powerful run, handing off the opposition, and reaching the full-back before being pulled down. This was a great effort, and loudly applauded.

GLOUCESTER WELL ON TOP

Playing up with keen determination Gloucester went hard for the line, the visitors being lucky to escape. Intercepting a pass Franklin crossed cleverly, but was ruled off-side.

Wadley, from a pass by Franklin close in, made a plunge for the line, but was held up. Leicester cleared with useful kicks, but they were beaten back, Steele-Perkins again barging his way through the opposition, to the delight of the crowd.

GLOUCESTER SCORE AGAIN

Gloucester put on severe pressure, but appeared totally unable to accept chances. After a bad miss on the left, Fifield did a clever bit of work, and passing to McCANLIS, the latter went over behind the posts. Boughton goaled.

Leicester played up desperately after this reverse, and the game went in their favour. The home defence was severely tested, but it held out, and Franklin eventually cleared with a punt. Leicester, however, were not done with, and a fine run by Buckingham nearly put Prentice in. This was their last chance, and the end came.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 2 goals, 2 tries (16 pts.)
LEICESTER 1 goal, 1 try (8 pts.)