

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1931

DEVON SERVICES 31 Pts. GLOUCESTER NIL

CRUSHING REVERSE

WEAK CITY TEAM OUTCLASSED

SPACKMAN INJURED

Gloucester were unable to take a representative team on the Devon tour, the absentees including McCanlis, Tanner, Saxby, J. Davies and Carpenter. The first match was against Devonport Services this afternoon, Plymouth Albion being opposed on Monday.

Early in the season Gloucester beat the Services at Kingsholm by a solitary point (6-5), Roy James being credited with all the points for the City – a penalty goal and a try. Gloucester had a much stronger combination on paper doing duty on that occasion, and the closeness of the struggle suggested the visitors had a big task set them to-day to repeat last year's victory of 11 points to 6. Fortunately A. E. Brookes (who assisted London Welsh during the holidays) was able to make the tour, and replaced W. N. Hoare at centre three-quarter.

There was a miniature heat wave at Devonport, and the ground was correspondingly hard.

GLOUCESTER

FULL-BACK: H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS: Roy James (captain), V. Sheppard, A. E. Brookes, A. Spackman.

HALF-BACKS: F. Fifield and Don Meadows.

FORWARDS: F. Wadley, L. Franklin, E. Comley, K. Smith, J. Hemming, T. Hiam, A. Welshman, and Dr. Steele-Perkins.

THE GAME

The Services pressed strongly from the start, and with their forwards controlling the scrummages, they kept play in the Gloucester territory. They had one good chance of scoring when three of their forwards had the ball at their feet near the Gloucester line, but Brookes dashed up and managed to kick dead.

SERVICES OPEN THE SCORING

Gloucester got out of their half for the first time when they were awarded a drop out, but the Services were quickly on the attack again, and 12 minutes after the start they went ahead, BAILEY cutting through with a swerving run to score a very fine try which he converted.

Gloucester, for a few minutes had their share of the attack after this, but their three-quarters were very unreliable, and the first time the ball went back to them they were so slow that the movement was quickly broken up.

A SECOND TRY

It was not long before the Services were pressing again. They did so with such good effect that they soon increased their lead, WALLIS breaking away on the wing to touch down in the corner for an unconverted try.

Although the sun was as hot as at mid-summer, the game was being contested at a very fast pace, and it seemed a little too fast for Gloucester.

GLOUCESTER IMPROVE

The City were slow in following up and taking advantage of the powerful kicking of Boughton. On several occasions he and James found touch in the home territory, but always the Services were able to clear from the lines-out.

Just before the interval Gloucester put in a burst which looked promising, Wadley and Fifield taking the ball at their feet up to the Services' line.

Their final kick ahead went astray, and Bailey, who had run round, gathered the ball in amazing style and cleared to touch when Gloucester appeared to have a golden opportunity.

A minute later, Fifield made a great effort to force his way over from the scrum in the home 25, but he was brought down by weight of numbers.

HALF-TIME :
DEVONPORT SERVICES ... 1 goal 1 try
GLOUCESTER Nil

SPACKMAN INJURED

Gloucester started the second half with 14 men only, Spackman, who was injured just before the interval being unable to resume. Franklin went out to the wing, and the absence of a forward was soon felt.

In the first few minutes the Services forced their way into Gloucester territory, where after a real three-quarter movement WEBSTER went over for a try, Hargrave converting from the touch line.

Gloucester made one bid to get into an attacking position, Brookes and James getting away smartly. The latter's punt ahead was neatly fielded by Cotman, who put the Services back on the attack to such good effect that WEBSTER again went over for Hargrave to convert.

Another score came a few minutes later. A cross-kick enabled HARDING to cross between the posts, and from the easy position, Hargrave added the goal points.

SERVICES GO FURTHER AHEAD

The Services continued to play with undiminished vigour, and although Gloucester defended heroically they were soon further in arrears, WEBB crossing for an unconverted try.

Gloucester strove desperately to open their account, and Sheppard put in a good run on the wing, only to be brought down almost on the line.

In the last few minutes Gloucester lost Brookes, who injured his shoulder, and as he was walking off the field WEBB went over for another try, which Bailey converted.

RESULT :

DEVON SERVICES ... 5 goals 2 tries (31 Pts.)
GLOUCESTER Nil

REMARKS

Gloucester apparently found the Devon sunshine too warm for them, but whatever the cause they certainly had an off-day. They met the Services at the top of their form, and by comparison Gloucester were made to look slow and unreliable. Nothing could go right for them, and try as they would they were rarely able to get out of their own half and never looked like scoring.

Gloucester were handicapped in the second half by the loss of Spackman, but even in the first half, when they were at full strength, they were outplayed in all departments. The forwards were beaten in the scrums, and the three-quarters when they did get a chance, found the Services' defence impregnable, and could make little progress.

Next week's matches : Monday, Gloucester v. Plymouth Albion, at Plymouth. Saturday : Gloucester v. Harlequins, at Twickenham; Gloucester Boys v. Coventry Boys, at Kingsholm.

GLOUCESTER UNITED v. MONMOUTH

DRAWN GAME AT KINGSHOLM

The crowd had grown by the time the United took the field, and there was a good attendance. Gloucester pressed from the start, but several scrums near the visitors' line failed to produce any score. Thomas was nearly over once, but was held up on the line.

A breakaway by the home right wing took the ball to the Monmouth line again, where Webb snapped up a pass and opened Gloucester's account. Parker added the goal points.

Critchley made a good swerving run from the restart and took play to the Monmouth half, where Gloucester were awarded a free for off-side. Parker failed with a shot at goal. Gloucester kept up the attack, and the backs got away, but Monmouth were up with them and secured possession. Butchers made a good run down the wing, but was tackled at the 25.

Gloucester were hard pressed, but Jones' pass to his backs was wide, and Critchley got possession and relieved with a long punt. Fussell, the visiting back, found touch at half-way. Webb took play to the Monmouth line with a free kick, which he followed up and nearly scored. Monmouth heeled beautifully from a scrum, and Jones set the threes going. Fryer ran well, and kicking ahead was just beaten by Masters for the touch down.

Orpin spoiled a brilliant run after he had snapped up the ball in the home 25 by holding on too long with another man waiting for the pass. He ran to the Monmouth 25, and was hauled down, with the ball in his hands.

Half Time :

Gloucester United 1 goal
Monmouth Nil

Short scored a try for Monmouth just after the interval, and Price converted.

Result :

Gloucester United ... 1 goal (5 points)

Monmouth 1 goal (5 points)

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