

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1931

GLOUCESTER'S DEVON TOUR

CITY'S FORM ALL WRONG AGAINST THE SERVICES

DEVONPORT SERVICES 31 POINTS; GLOUCESTER NIL

Two sensational results featured Gloucester's two matches in Devon over the week-end, and emphasised still further the City's amazing inconsistency this season. I did not accompany the team this year, but an old Devon forward and football critic has furnished me with some comments on the games, which are given below.

Gloucester's weakened side did not encourage much hope of victory in either match, but a 31 points defeat from the Services fairly staggered local followers, and I can fully understand the correctness of the score being questioned when the result was first published. But there was no mistake, and the report of the game fully explained Gloucester's complete discomfiture. It is a long time since so many points were recorded against the City without a solitary score on the credit side.

A JADED TEAM

Ever since Gloucester first visited the Rectory, Devonport, away back in the nineties the Rugby followers of Plymouth and district have always looked forward to their games with Devonport Services and Plymouth Albion. It may be said at once that Saturday's performance against the Services was probably the most disappointing in a long series of fixtures.

The result can only be ascribed to the fact that Gloucester played throughout like a jaded team, and only for a few minutes before the interval did they seem likely to penetrate the opposing defence.

As the result of some combined dribbling, Cotman – a nimble little full-back – was beaten, and a score seemed certain. However, one of the home centres, Bailey, suddenly materialised "out of the blue" as it were, loped at great pace round behind the posts, collected the ball off the ground when going at full speed, and effected a remarkable clearance.

The early stages of play revealed that Gloucester were decidedly weak at centre, and James alone of the three-quarters gave the opposition any cause for perturbation. It was clear as play progressed that the winners were much the fresher side. Their international forward (Harding) and Evans, another sturdy trial scrummager, toward the finish especially were frequently prominent. Evans scored two tries from . . .

[Remainder of this passage of the report is unavailable owing to copy damage].

JC