

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1933

GLOUCESTER 10 Pts., NEWPORT NIL

ANOTHER NOTABLE PERFORMANCE BY GLOUCESTER

FIRST "DOUBLE" OVER NEWPORT FOR 50 YEARS

WELSHMEN OUTPLAYED

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

The absence of C. C. Tanner and J. C. Brooks seriously weakened Gloucester for the return match with Newport at Kingsholm this afternoon.

Tanner was in attendance as reserve for England at Murrayfield, and Brooks had to stand down owing to an injury – a strained groin – sustained in the game against Bath the previous week.

In the first match of the season between the teams, Gloucester recorded their first victory at Newport for 50 years, winning deservedly by 10 points to 6.

Newport have experienced one of the worst seasons in the Club's history, but since losing to Gloucester they have done extremely well, and had strong hopes of escaping the double defeat.

F. S. Edwards, the ex-Wycliffe College boy, took the vacant centre position in the City team, and McKay reappeared at right wing.

There were between 4,000 and 5,000 present when the teams fielded in fine weather as follows : –

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : W. V. Sheppard, F. S. Edwards, G. R. James, and R. B. McKay.

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

FORWARDS : F. Wadley (capt.), A. Carpenter, W. Comley, R. Morris, K. Smith, A. Welshman, P. Hordern, and I. Williams.

NEWPORT.

BACK : W. A. Everson.

THREE-QUARTERS : Hywel Jones, G. V. Jones, K. Squire, and J. F. C. Swallow.

HALF-BACKS : A. R. Tovey and S. Watkins.

FORWARDS : E. J. Shiner, J. R. Evans, J. K. Woods, D. Jones, H. G. Shiner, K. Taylor, W. G. C. Williams, and G. L. Gwilliam.

Referee : Mr. G. Hale (Bristol).

THE GAME

Gloucester won the toss and the visitors kicked off with the sun in their faces. Sheppard returned with a punt just inside the 25, and G. Jones replied to touch. Following some loose play, the Gloucester forwards, with Morris, Carpenter and Hordern leading, dribbled through to the centre, where Everson saved. A penalty against Newport was taken by Boughton, but he failed to find touch with his kick and Everson sent to touch.

Gloucester made further headway, but an attempt at passing broke down, and a similar effort failed on the right. Newport worked back beyond mid-field, and profited owing to mistakes in handling by the home backs. Edwards saved well from a dangerous rush, and later a pass back to Boughton enabled the City custodian to gain 20 yards.

Subsequent play was scrambling amongst the forwards, but the City gained the advantage, and Boughton, with a beautiful touch-finder from a penalty, put play on the Newport 25.

POOR PLAY

So far play had been decidedly poor, the handling of the backs being very erratic. A rush by the Newport front forced Gloucester back, but the City heeled, James fumbling a pass with Edwards and Sheppard well placed.

A neat movement, however, set Gloucester going, and McKay made a sharp dash, but was pushed to touch. The City went close with a flying kick, and Edwards did good work. The ball coming out to Meadows, there appeared a likely chance, but the pass was spoiled.

Newport cleared from a dangerous position with good kicking, and benefited later through Swallow being allowed to get away from a forward pass. Gloucester continued to have the better of the exchanges, but the football did not improve, and so far there had not been a real incident.

NEWPORT ATTACKS

Gloucester again assumed the attack, but they were beaten off, and Newport took up the running. Sharp dashes by G. Jones and Swallow looked promising, but the tackling was very deadly. The visitors, however, kept up the aggressive. Gloucester were kept busy defending.

A rush led by Comley enabled the City to reach mid-field, where Newport opened out. The ball came across from right to left where Hywel Jones was nicely tackled by Sheppard.

Williams, with a sharp burst, and Sheppard, with a flying kick, took play ten yards from the Newport line, where Gloucester struggled hard for a score. The defence, however, was equal to the occasion.

MEADOWS' FINE EFFORT

Gradually, Newport worked out, but Meadows, gathering from the loose brought off a superb run. In trying to cut inside Everson, however, he slipped, and fell, and was pounced on from behind. Working desperately Gloucester went for a corner try, but were stopped just outside.

A GREAT TRY

By the aid of big kicking Newport transferred operations to the other end. On the 25 line Meadows served Edwards, who cut through in fine style and worked out a perfect opening. A timely pass was given McKay on the centre line, and the wing man dashed away. McKAY was closely pressed, but twice he handed off attempted tackles, and finished by scoring behind the posts. It was a grand try, and . . .

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. . . Eventually the game was transferred to mid-field, but Newport never looked dangerous. Gloucester twice opened out well, but the passing went astray.

Then Meadows came into the picture with a marvellous run in which he side-stepped three opponents, including Everson, beautifully. The opening made, he handed to HORDERN, who handed off a would-be tackler, and scored near the posts. Boughton added the goal points, and Gloucester were in a good position.

Play was very fast on the restart, the home forwards showing capital form. Sheppard brought off a powerful dash down touch, but was unable to clear, and his pass back inside went astray. Gloucester were sent back with a long kick, but the City backs quickly broke away. The movement, however, broke down at James.

ALL GLOUCESTER

Gloucester were again having all the play, the Newport forwards being outplayed in the loose. Twice the City rushed close, and tries were narrowly missed. A little more judgment behind, too, and the defence might have been beaten. The City tried desperately to increase their lead, and Wadley and Hordern were only just stopped in time. In another strong attack the passing went wrong at the critical moment, and Newport, snapping up the ball, kicked to beyond half-way.

Play was desperately keen in subsequent exchanges between the forwards, but Gloucester held out in grand style, and more than held their own to the finish.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 2 goals (10 points)
NEWPORT Nil

REMARKS

Gloucester added to their notable performances of the season with a second victory over Newport, the first "double" recorded against the Welshmen for 51 years. The respective triumphs are worth recording.

1881-2

December 3, at the Spa. Gloucester won 1 goal 2 tries to 1 goal.

February 4, at Newport. Gloucester won 1 try to nil.

1932-33

January 14, at Newport. Gloucester won by 2 goals (10 pts) to 2 tries (6 pts).

March 18, at Gloucester. Gloucester won 2 goals (10 pts.) to nil.

Newport were a well-beaten side to-day, and on the play were fortunate in escaping with only a 10 points defeat. Except for occasional bursts, the Welshmen were completely out-played forward, and behind the scrum.

The few attacking movements made by the visitors came from mistakes made by home players, and the danger was never really serious. For the first quarter the football displayed was very moderate, and fumbling on both sides was frequent.

Then came McKay's try – Edwards played a great part in the scoring of this point – and from that moment Gloucester were in distinct ascendancy. Plenty of thrills were served up – all by Gloucester – and it was marvellous how the Newport line escaped at times.

The Gloucester forwards, if anything, improved on their performance against Bath. They were splendidly together in the loose, and in the second half enjoyed practically a monopoly of the ball in the scrums. The exchanges on occasions were inclined to be too strenuous, and there was some desperate tackling.

All the City players did finely, and the pack as a whole, touched a high standard. In comparison the Newport eight, though possessing plenty of weight, were very moderate. Hordern was the outstanding forward on the field, but Williams, Welshman, and Morris ran him closely. Carpenter also was repeatedly prominent, and Wadley, Comley and Ken Smith equally shared with their colleagues in the honours gained.

Behind such a set of workers, Fifield and Meadows enjoyed brilliant success, and they continually opened up the play. Meadows' individual work was again a feature, and the opening he made for Hordern to score was a real gem. Edwards showed splendid form at centre, and there is no question Gloucester have secured a player of first-class ability in the old Wycliffe boy. He is equally good in attack and defence. McKay and Sheppard did finely on the respective wings, but James did not have a happy match, especially in handling.

Boughton was at his best at full back, and Newport were also well served by Everson. The visitors' backs were never impressive, and the forwards, on the day, were well beaten.

UNITED BEATEN POINTLESS
BACKS DOMINATED BY NEWPORT

Weather was ideal for the visit of Gloucester United to Newport when chief interest centred around the appearance of Raymond Ralph, the Welsh International outside half, and the Newport captain at centre for the home side.

Ralph was testing his shoulder which was injured last November. Gloucester United pressed in the opening minutes, but two free kicks against them taken by Isaac and Ralph, sent them back to their own 25.

When Isaac miskicked, Adams, the visitors' right wing, caught finely to find touch well upfield, and temporarily averted danger.

Gloucester had several times been pulled up for offside, and this caused them to fall behind.

For offside at a scrum Raymond Ralph kicked a good penalty goal with a left foot drop kick.

Twice afterwards Gloucester were similarly penalised, and Ralph took both kicks in the same manner. He was unsuccessful with the first, but made no mistake in the second effort.

T. Stephens made a brilliant interception of a pass from Dawes to Ralph, and got clean away, but when faced by the home full-back, he hesitated and was tackled. Adams received, but he also showed hesitancy when he had an outside chance of scoring, and the opportunity was lost.

HALF-TIME :
Newport United 2 goals (p.)
Gloucester United Nil

Gloucester United fell further behind shortly after the interval when Ralph cut through brilliantly and handed on to Dunn, who scored an unconverted try.

Parker was playing a sound game at full-back for Gloucester, but he could not get across in time to prevent Plummer scoring Newport's second try following a cross-kick from Dunn. Ralph converted.

These reverses stung Gloucester, who played up strongly, their forwards especially demonstrating a superiority, both in the scrums and in the loose, but their backs were unable to cope successfully with the faster Newport backs, who played well above their normal form.

Stephens had a chance of reducing Gloucester's deficit when they were awarded a penalty in a fairly good position, but his kick fell short, and Dunn intercepting in a passing movement which followed, broke away and ran three-parts the length of the field only to stumble when confronted by Parker.

RESULT :

NEWPORT UNITED 3 goals (2p) 1 try (14 pts.)

GLOUCESTER UNITED Nil

Next week : Gloucester v. Cheltenham, at Kingsholm; Gloucester United v. Bromsgrove, away.