

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1923.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER'S THIRD WIN OVER CHELTENHAM.

TOWN BEATEN BY EIGHTEEN POINTS.

HUGHES IN MERRY MOOD.

The third fixture of the season between Gloucester and Cheltenham was decided on the latter's ground, the two Clubs dividing the gate receipts. Both the previous games were won easily by the City with greatly weakened ranks owing to the clashing of County matches, and on recent form Gloucester were fully expected to record another victory this afternoon. Cheltenham had to field short of Bloodworth (half-back) and Rees and Stephens (forward), but good reserves were found. Gloucester were practically at full strength, the only change being Clements for Crowther.

Teams :

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : J. C. Collett.

THREE-QUARTERS : N. Daniell, S. Stone, W. Clements, and S. Brown.

HALF-BACKS : W. Collins, and E. H. Hughes.

FORWARDS : F. Ayliffe (capt.), T. Voyce, A. Hall, G. Holford, S. Smart, T. Coulson, S. Bayliss, and M. Evans.

CHELTENHAM.

BACK : H. Willavise.

THREE-QUARTERS : E. M. Loveluck, C. W. Statham, W. Hart, and E. A. Moore.

HALF-BACKS : A. Fitz and I. C. Bendall.

FORWARDS : H. Wixey, T. Harry, T. C. L. Ward, F. C. Ryland, A. G. Triggs-Herbert, W. Burford, E. A. Brown, and W. Febrey.

Referee : Mr. R. W. Barry (Cardiff).

THE GAME.

The day was fine, and there was a record gate for the season on the Athletic Ground. A large contingent came over from the city, and one of the more adventurous spirits amongst them climbed the goal post and tied the Gloucester colours to the cross-bar. Ayliffe kicked off, the visitors facing the sun. Cheltenham sent back to Gloucester territory, but Collett returned. Fitz, however, kicked over the half-way line again, and then the Gloucester forwards took a hand. Clements kicked to Brown, who raced away and then passed inside. The defence was sure, and the home forwards worked away to the 25, where another round of passing was started on the right wing.

Cheltenham were much pressed, but relief came, and then the visitors were awarded a penalty kick, which, taken by Collett, failed. The Gloucester men maintained the attack, and the homesters found relief by touching down. Resuming, the ball came to Hart, who attempted a short kick over Daniell's head, but sent into touch instead. Cheltenham were penalised again, but luckily escaped the points, Collett once more being unsuccessful at the easy place.

On the drop out the home forwards, helped by Fitz, got into the Gloucester 25, where Collett gave them a chance by kicking high. It was not taken, however. The visiting forwards came away. A pass to Voyce was a bit in front, but the International could not get away, although making desperate efforts.

Willavise now replied well to a punt by Collett, and Bendall also got in a kick, but the advantage of the play was with Gloucester. The ball being kicked down to the home goal Willavise failed to field it, and for some reason the referee awarded another penalty kick to the visitors. Ayliffe made the attempt this time, but he had no more luck than Collett.

A fine round of passing on the Gloucester right enabled Stone to make tracks for the line. He passed well to Daniell, who, however, was pushed into touch. The first 20 minutes had yielded nothing to either side.

Collins attempted to pull the ball out of the scrum, and his side were penalised therefore, but the distance was too great. Some smart handling by the Gloucester threes looked dangerous for Cheltenham, Clements and Brown on the left wing and Stone and Daniell on the right each having a share in the movement but the home tackling was pretty sure, and knocks-on spoiled the last transfers. Collins now got the ball away beautifully from the scrum, and Hughes set the three-quarters in motion. Nothing happened, however, although Daniell made a strong burst for it.

Some exciting play ensued, Stone gathering the ball and bringing off a dodging run right down to the home line. He had pushed off several opponents, but Hart brought about his downfall. The game still hovered in the home 25, and here Voyce got the ball, and after a short run passed to Holford, who crossed with an easy try from which he placed a neat goal. Gloucester again got the ball from the scrum, and after a strong run down the left wing by Brown the ball came across to the other wing, where Stone took a hand and crossed with a try which Holford failed to improve upon.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
GLOUCESTER 1 goal 1 try
CHELTENHAM Nil

Cheltenham had put up a strong and plucky defence up to within five or six minutes of the interval, when Gloucester had them beaten. On resuming, Collins sent out to Hughes from the scrum, and Clements gave Brown a chance, but he could not get by. Willavise fumbled a kick sent to him, but recovered in time to save his line, and the home forwards carried the game out of danger.

Cheltenham now tried passing, but Hart was brought down before he could get away. Bendall, however, had better luck. Receiving the ball at midfield he executed a clever cork-screw run through a heap of opponents and got to within five yards of the line, when he unfortunately dropped the ball. Cheltenham were now fairly on their mettle, and set up a hot attack in the visitors' line. The defence, however, held.

When the game was in their own 25 Gloucester were penalised. Moore took the kick, the ball became loose, and Hart getting it at his toes carried to within a dozen yards of the line, over which it was forced by the forwards, Fitz touching down for a try which Moore was unable to improve upon.

Brown next came away with a fine burst and kicked to Willavise, who fielded grandly and recovered all the lost ground by a punt to touch.

In ensuing play the home threes appeared to advantage, Loveluck in attack and Statham in defence. Fitz also put in a run and a kick, and Moore punted into touch close to the visitors' line. Excitement ran high as the home side struggled for the equalising try, but the Gloucester defence was not wanting.

The visitors then took up the attack, and a fine run down the touch-line by Daniell looked most promising; in fact, the ball was kicked over the line, but the wing man had stepped into touch just previously, and a line-out was ordered. From thence Collins secured and romped over for Collins to place a magnificent goal[*sic*].

Voyce was temporarily knocked out with a blow in the eye, but resumed at once to see Hughes cut away through his opponents and score, with Willavise hanging on to him. This was the best individual effort of the match. Collett failed with the place-kick.

Play continued in favour of Gloucester, and in some loose play a kick by Willavise was charged down, and a flying kick by one of the visitors sent the ball over the line for Bayliss to follow up and score. Holford had no difficulty in placing a goal. The end came with Gloucester well on top.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 3 goals 2 tries (21 pts.)
CHELTENHAM 1 try (3 pts.)

REMARKS.

(BY OUR CHELTENHAM CORRESPONDENT.)

The run of the play was in favour of Gloucester, who were full value for their 21 points. The visitors were, however, none too comfortable in the first 20 minutes, when Cheltenham not only put up a very sturdy defence but initiated an occasional attack which only just failed. After this period the game went decidedly in favour of Gloucester, who showed up to great advantage in all points of the game.

The visiting forwards controlled the scrums, and Fitz had no chance against Collins. Hughes had a merry time in setting his three-quarters in motion, and it was somewhat surprising that more of the movements did not materialise. Stone and Daniell were the shining lights of the quartette, with Brown and Clements also doing useful work. Collett did not fail as a custodian.

The home forwards missed Rees and Stephens in the open rushes. Bendall, however, deputised extremely well at outside half, and was the outstanding man among the rear division.

The Cheltenham three-quarters played a sterling game in defence, but their attack lacked finish. Willavise did well in the last line of defence, and could not be blamed for the visitors' success.

GLOUCESTER A *v.* WEST END.

CITY SECONDS VICTORIOUS.

At Kingsholm. Gloucester won the toss, and kicked off against the wind. Following a scrum the West End almost scored, but the City picked up in time and cleared. A few minutes later Lewis scored for the West End, T. Burns converting.

A. Rea responded for the Seconds. Another try was soon added by James, and Wadley contributed the third, neither being converted. The West End forwards were playing well together, but received little support from their three-quarters.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A 3 tries
West End 1 goal

On resuming, West End scored a try by Hemmings, and Burns converted, giving the visitors a lead of one point. However, this was soon lost, Wadley getting over in the corner and James converting.

Owing to an accident to W. Pitt Gloucester had to play a man short, and West End pressed strongly. A fine break-away by the home team from their own line and a smart burst by Meadows left the ball at half-way with Mansell, who finished a fine movement by scoring behind the posts. James again added the extra points. Play was evenly contested to the end.

Gloucester A 2 goals, 3 tries (19 pts.)
West End 2 goals (10 pts.)