

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1935

GLOUCESTER 6 Pts.; BATH 3

GAME OF MANY MISTAKES

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Bath, who have had a lean season to date, suffered their eighth defeat in eleven matches when they were beaten at Kingsholm this afternoon. In the corresponding match last year, Gloucester won by 17 points to nil.

A pleasing feature of the match for the Gloucester Club was the welcome return to the team of C. C. Tanner, who will be available for the majority of the remaining matches.

The International took his usual place at right-wing three-quarter, being partnered by Brooks.

Edwards and Hordern were absentees, the former standing down owing to tonsillitis. This let in Pugsley at centre. Bath fielded as selected. The ground made a splendid recovery after the drenching rains of the past two days, and there was attendance of about 5,000.

Teams :

GLOUCESTER

FULL-BACK: H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS: C. C. Tanner, J. C. Brooks (capt.), T. Pugsley, and R. E. Hook.

HALF-BACKS: C. Fifield and Don Meadows.

FORWARDS: A. Carpenter, T. Price, A. Harris, J. G. A'Bear, R. Morris, K. Smith, A. Welshman, and Ivor Williams.

BATH

FULL-BACK: H. F. T. Buse.

THREE-QUARTERS: L. G. Matthews, R. W. James, R. A. Gerrard, and W. E. Hancock.

HALF-BACKS: C. E. Gough and H. Davies.

FORWARDS: L. G. Phillips, H. Oak, A. Ash, J. S. Wood, K. G. Foss, A. Francis, N. W. Matthews, and P. Moon.

REFEREE: G. H. Beynon (London).

THE GAME

Bath started with a big kick, the ball being gathered by Brooks near the goal-line and returned to touch outside the home 25. Pugsley easily gained ground for Gloucester with a punt up field, but the position was soon lost through a faulty inside pass from Hook. The ball was captured by an opponent, who kicked hard past Boughton, but Hook got back and ran to touch.

Williams brought off a sharp dash from a loose scrum which gained 15 yards, but mistakes in handling gave Bath a chance to recover. Gloucester heeled smartly on several occasions, but Fifield was slow in getting the ball away. Once there was a promising bout, but Pugsley sent wide to Hook . . .

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. . . Meadows, and Gloucester were again in danger. Fumblings close in allowed the visitors to rush to the goal-line, where Gloucester luckily averted disaster. Meadows was instrumental in effecting a clearance, short punting and collaring Gerrard in possession. The latter, however, made amends a little later with a strong run and cross-kick.

Gloucester had the better of subsequent exchanges, but they could not get moving with any degree of success, the Bath forwards breaking up quickly and covering closely. There was another smart burst by Williams, but his pass went to Hook's feet, and the ball rolled to touch.

MANY MISTAKES

The Gloucester forwards, taking matters into their own hands, brought off a splendid burst, A'Bear, Morris, Williams and Welshman being to the fore. Gerrard, however, effected a wonderful clearance and kick to touch. Bath made headway with loose footwork and useful kicks, but there was little in the way of constructive football on either side, and mistakes in handling continued to be frequent.

BATH'S FINE TRY

Just inside their own half the visiting backs handled neatly, and Matthews put in a dashing run. He was, however, overhauled and brought down by Tanner. Gloucester rushed back, but they could do nothing right. The visitors took up the running again, and the backs shaped much better. A combined movement made good headway and reached a position over the centre line. Here Gough was sent away by Davies and he cut through brilliantly. At the right moment he yielded to GERRARD, who raced on and scored behind the post. Buse took the kick at goal, but the ball was charged down – luckily for Gloucester.

Gloucester restarted strongly, the forwards doing well with loose footwork. Ten yards inside the Bath half, the visitors were penalised and Boughton with a grand kick equalised the scores. Subsequent play to the interval was fast and keen, but nothing further resulted.

Half-time :

Gloucester 1 goal (p)

Bath 1 try

Gloucester had shown very moderate form all-round and were rather lucky to be on equal terms at the interval.

Resuming, the Gloucester backs opened out early, and Pugsley slipped a couple of opponents neatly and punted ahead. Buse, however, gathered and ran over the touch line. The Bath forwards forged ahead in subsequent play, and there was some vigorous tackling on both sides.

Tanner, who had been starved, at length got in a huge punt half the length of the field, and Buse, in trying to clear, was tackled. There was a possible opening for Gloucester, but the players were too slow to take advantage, and the same thing happened a moment later.

ROUGH AND TUMBLE

The football showed no improvement as the game advanced, the attempts at handling failing repeatedly. There was scarcely a redeeming feature, play being mainly with the forwards and of the rough and tumble character.

GLOUCESTER ATTACK AND SCORE

For some few minutes Bath confined the City to their half, but there was little in the way of incident. Meadows had to concede a minor from a kick over the line. From the drop-out Gloucester went away with splendid dash and a punt by Tanner, who tackled Buse just as he got in his kick. Gloucester put on a spurt now and following a short punt by Meadows HOOK picked up, and with a fine run, got the ball down for a corner try. Boughton failed at goal.

This success encouraged Gloucester, who in the next few minutes were very aggressive, but without success attending their efforts. Bath replied, but they were checked before getting dangerous. Near midfield Meadows dodged through beautifully and passed to Williams, but the latter carried on too far, and Tanner was crowded out.

BATH'S SMOTHERING TACTICS

Subsequent play was evenly contested, but Bath's smothering tactics continually upset the home team's players. Mistakes allowed the visitors to clear, but Meadows twice ran through nicely, only to see his efforts thrown away by faulty transfers. Gloucester put in several strong attacks, but they could not beat the defence, and Bath eventually eased the pressure and reached midfield.

Play fell off again after this, and there were few incidents. The Bath forwards worried their opponents a good deal, and often had the better of the exchanges. From a punt out by Tanner, Buse took a drop at goal, but was a yard wide of the post. The game quickly went to the other end after the restart, thanks to Meadows, who found touch with a 50 yards' kick. The same player had a drop for goal, but failed to raise the ball sufficiently.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ... 1 goal (p) 1 try (6 pts.)
BATH 1 try (3 pts.)

REMARKS

Gloucester gained winning points as the result of Boughton's fine penalty goal, but victory brought the City club little in the way of credit. It was a game full of handling mistakes . . .

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