

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECHO

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1936

## KEEN STRUGGLE AT GLOUCESTER

CHELTENHAM BEATEN BY MARGIN OF ONLY SEVEN POINTS

MANY SCORING CHANCES MISSED

At Kingsholm to-day Gloucester once more defeated Cheltenham, but only by ten points to three after a hard struggle.

Ivor Williams, acting under doctor's orders, was unable to turn out. His place was taken by Ken Smith.

Cheltenham also made a late change, W. Holtam taking the place of D. J. Anderson in the pack.

In the Cheltenham team, G. H. T. Billson resumed to partner V. H. Brookes at centre, but Leslie Goddard, who bruised his shoulder a fortnight ago, was again absent from the three-quarter line, and C. W. Timms was unable to take his place in the pack.

Gloucester : H. Boughton; R. E. Hook, F. G. Edwards, J. C. Brooks, R. E. Early; D. Meadows, E. Day; A. Carpenter, C. Price, C. Harris, J. G. A'Bear, R. Morris, P. Hordern, A. Welshman, K. Smith.

Cheltenham : L. Masters; H. Morgan, G. H. Billson, V. H. Brookes, A. Roberts; H. Goddard, R. Thomas; A. Castle, T. White, H. Beck, H. Webley, C. Fry, N. Harris (capt.), W. Holtam, F. Hughes.

Referee : Mr. C. S. Gilbert (Midland Counties).

Spring-like conditions prevailed, and there was an attendance of about 5,000 when Gloucester kicked off.

They at once established a footing in Cheltenham's 25, and when one of the Cheltenham forwards got offside, Boughton tried a shot at goal from 10 yards inside the half-way line. The ball dropped short, and Billson, the Cheltenham centre, kicked to touch.

Masters, the Cheltenham full-back, came into prominence with a smart piece of fielding and touch-finding under pressure. Cheltenham tackled well, and by keen marking foiled Gloucester's speedy and well-conceived attacks.

### A HUSTLING GAME

Boughton again tried a long-range penalty kick when Thomas got off-side at the base of the scrum, and again the kick fell short.

Cheltenham forwards, led by Nelson Harris, the captain, Hughes and Castle, were playing a hustling game, and in one rush carried the ball in an exhilarating dribble to the half-way line, where a fine forward duel followed.

Gloucester were better and more dangerous behind the scrums, and a pretty movement by their three-quarters promised well when the ball travelled from the centre to the wing, Hook being pushed into touch when making a final dash for the line.

Gloucester kept up the pressure and Edwards took the eye with a clever burst through, though the final pass was knocked on.

Cheltenham so far had shaped very well, and with the aid of a penalty kick they again forced Gloucester back to the centre.

### GLOUCESTER TAKE THE LEAD

Gloucester went ahead from a brilliant three-quarter movement from half-way. Brook cut through and timed his pass well to HOOK. The wing man had a comfortable run in, and Boughton converted.

Cheltenham almost replied on the restart, for a wild kick by Meadows was beautifully gathered by Roberts, who ran well, but passed forward.

Roberts showed sound tactics a little later with a clever punt ahead, but Boughton made a good clearance.

When Boughton was tackled in possession the Gloucester line was subjected to hot pressure, but handling mistakes among the Cheltenham team threw away an opening.

The Cheltenham hooker was giving his side good service from the scrums, and the City defence had to give of its best to keep the visitors out.

Cheltenham lost their attacking position when Thomas got off-side at the scrum and useful kicking by Boughton, Meadows and Hordern regained their lost ground.

The ensuing play proved a hard forward tussle, but Gloucester could not penetrate a dour defence.

Half-time :

Gloucester .....	1 goal (5 pts.)
Cheltenham .....	Nil

Cheltenham had had a golden opportunity to be on level terms, for during one considerable spell Gloucester's defence had been rattled. The Cheltenham forwards were excellent, both in the tight and loose.

A long touch finder by Meadows put Gloucester on the attack after the resumption. Brooks short-punted and put the City in a good position, but Masters saved well.

From a scrum, Day tried to cut through on the blind side, and the Cheltenham forwards came away with a quick burst to the centre.

## MORE POINTS FOR GLOUCESTER

Gloucester retaliated in similar fashion and Masters was plucky, and lucky, in stopping them. The City, however, were not to be denied, and BROOKES, despite a tackle, crossed close in and Boughton converted.

Smart work by Hughes and Thomas put Cheltenham on the offensive again, and Boughton extricated the City well by his positioning and long, raking kicks.

Gloucester, with fierce forward work, swept back to the Cheltenham line. Here, the visiting forwards got offside when Masters tried to clear and Boughton took an unsuccessful shot at goal.

Cheltenham defended strongly after this, and Morgan cleared in fine style when Meadows punted ahead.

Boughton then attempted a drop kick, which fell short.

Afterwards Cheltenham were penalised, and Boughton this time shot from the half-way line, the ball again dropping short.

It was all Gloucester now, but a scrum infringement gave Cheltenham breathing space and carried the game to half-way.

## CHELTENHAM'S ONLY TRY

Billson made the best run so far for Cheltenham when he came away nicely, only to be bundled into touch. It led to a score, however, for H. Goddard intercepted and passed to ROBERTS, who crossed wide out. Harris failed with the kick.

On the resumption Gloucester went close and Cheltenham were lucky to save by several forwards falling on the ball. Back the visitors went, and H. Goddard cut through the opposition well, and Billson had hard luck in not going over.

Day got back and saved with a good kick to touch.

Harry Goddard was short with a penalty kick, and when Boughton was tackled in possession it looked odds on a Cheltenham score, but Boughton sent them back.

Cheltenham put in some really hard work in the last quarter of an hour, and a little more cohesion would have brought about a score.

FINAL SCORE :

GLOUCESTER ..... 2 goals (10 pts.)

CHELTENHAM ..... 1 try (3 pts.)

JC