

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1936

GLOUCESTER 5 POINTS; BATH 11 POINTS

HOME SIDE'S VICTORY WELL DESERVED

CITY FORWARDS ON TOP, BUT BACKS NOT FAST ENOUGH

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Bath retained their splendid home record against Gloucester to-day, when they obtained their seventh victory in the last ten engagements. The other three matches were drawn at three points each.

This was the City's fourth successive defeat this season.

Gloucester were unable to field full strength, prominent absentees including Grahame Parker and Edwards. The old Cambridge Blue has intimated that he will be available regularly for the remainder of the season.

Owing to train delay due to fog, the Gloucester team made the journey by road.

There were three late changes in the City team. Harold Boughton replaced Stephens at full-back, and Gordon Hudson and Gwyn James appeared at wing three-quarter in place of Hook and Ivor Jones.

In the Bath team F. Evans appeared for Matthews in the forwards.

GLOUCESTER

BACK: H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS: Gordon Hudson, E. L. Phillips, M. A. McCanlis, and Gwyn James.

HALF-BACKS: E. Day and Don Meadows.

FORWARDS: A. Carpenter, T. Price, C. Harris, J. G. A'Bear, K. Smith, A. Welshman, E. Bayliss, and I. Williams.

BATH

BACK: H. E. T. Buse.

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

HALF-BACKS: H. Davis and Roy Harris.

FORWARDS: H. Oak, P. C. Gay, L. Phillips, J. S. Wood, K. G. Fose, P. Moon, F. Evans, and A. Francis.

Referee: Mr. C. E. Beynon (London).

The weather was all clear at Bath, and there were 3,000 spectators – one of the best gates of the season.

The Mayor of Bath (Mr. W. F. Long), the old Bath and Somerset three-quarter, kicked off, and Gloucester at once got on the offensive.

The Bath line was early in danger, but a timely touch finder brought relief, and play settled just inside the home half. Both sides tried to open out from lines out, but nothing resulted until Bath broke away from a stray Gloucester pass. The way was clear for a good opening, but a transfer to the wing was forward, and the movement stopped.

Boughton was next called upon to field a high punt by Gerrard which he did effectively, and found touch well beyond the centre. Keen forward play followed with little advantage to either side, the tackling being very close.

A stray pass by Williams was taken by the Bath forwards, who dribbled down the touch and got past Boughton. The latter, however, ran back and recovered neatly.

A sweeping rush by the Gloucester forwards, started by Welshman, looked promising, but the home team saved on the 25 line.

VIGOROUS FORWARD STRUGGLE

Bath steadily worked out of danger, and in turn assumed the aggressive. Gerrard started a bout of passing, and Hancock was served on the left wing, but he was finely tackled by Hudson.

Combined work by the City front gave the visitors territorial advantage again, and the Bath defence was sorely tested. It held out, however, and play was removed to more favourable quarters for the home side.

Hancock was again stopped by Hudson when well away, and then Gloucester got moving through Meadows. A well-judged punt was keenly followed up, but the bounce of the ball beat the visitors, and Bath escaped.

It was a vigorous struggle between two strong packs, with each in turn in the ascendancy.

Gerrard missed with a penalty kick 30 yards out, but Bath continued to have slightly the better of the exchanges. A dashing forward rush took them well inside the Gloucester 25, and from a line-out Gay broke clear.

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. . . out and after passing along the line HANCOCK scored wide out. Gerrard failed with the kick.

Gloucester had the better of the play on the restart, but they could not find the desired opening.

Just on half-time Boughton had a long shot from a penalty, but a splendid attempt went wide of the upright.

HALF-TIME :

Bath 1 goal 1 try
Gloucester Nil

Bath had earned their lead by forceful play forward, but Gloucester might have opened their scoring with a bit of luck.

Gloucester had a heavy task to wipe off the arrears of eight points, but they opened the second half in workmanlike fashion.

A fine burst by A'Bear put Bath on the defensive, and a little later a combined dribble sent the ball over the line for a touch down.

BAYLISS SCORES TRY

Gloucester, however, would not be denied, for on the drop-out the forwards went away in irresistible style, and the home defenders failed to check the onrush, the ball being carried over for BAYLISS to score a good try.

No charge was allowed, and Boughton converted with a fine kick. This score showed the Gloucester forwards at their best in loose footwork.

On the resumption Bath went off in determined style, and Gloucester had some difficulty in checking one dangerous rush. Gloucester replied with equally vigorous work, but when the ball got among the visiting backs not much progress was made.

Each end in turn was visited, the changing fortunes being followed with great excitement. Gloucester had a promising opening after Phillips had made a clever cut through, but something went wrong with his pass.

Bath staved off another determined attack and with a breakdown behind by Gloucester they went to the other end, where Williams and Boughton saved an ugly situation.

Almost immediately Gloucester dribbled more than half the length of the field, and the trend of the play was completely changed.

NOT ENOUGH SPEED

Gloucester exerted considerable pressure to add to their score, but things would not run too kindly for them.

Eventually, quick passing saw McCanlis break through and pass to Phillips, who raced up to Buse and gave Hudson a clear run in. The latter, however, was not fast enough, and was overhauled and thrown into touch.

This was Gloucester's best chance of getting on terms.

Following the drop out a mistake in mid-field by a Gloucester player enabled Bath to kick ahead, and another hard drive sent the ball over the line. There was a tremendous race for the touch, ending in FOSTER gaining a try. Gerrard missed the goal points.

The remaining minutes were fought out vigorously, with Bath hotly attacking, but there was no more scoring.

RESULT :

BATH 1 goal 2 tries (11 pts.)

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (5 pts.)

REMARKS

In a vigorously contested game, Bath deserved their win, for they made the better use of their scoring chances. Forward, the battle was tremendous, with each side in turn holding the advantage.

Welshman gave the Gloucester pack a splendid lead, and A'Bear, Price, Williams and Bayliss did excellent work in all phases.

In the back division, Gloucester were very uncertain, and there was little or no combination. Phillips and McCanlis oft-times made splendid bursts, but the wings lacked scoring ability. Hudson tackled well at times, but lacked the speed necessary to make the best of Phillips' openings.

Boughton showed strong defensive powers, and his kicking was generally of a good length.

JC