

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECHO

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1936

CHELTENHAM'S GRIM FIGHT

NEITHER SIDE SCORE IN MATCH WITH GLO'STER

MASTERS STOPS DANGEROUS RUSHES

A. Castle, although chosen as reserve for the county team to meet Cornwall at Redruth, decided to turn out for Cheltenham against Gloucester to-day, so as not to spoil his record of nearly two hundred consecutive appearances for the club.

Thus Cheltenham were fairly strongly represented while Gloucester were a weakened side owing to county calls.

Teams : –

Cheltenham. – L. Masters; L. Goddard, R. Arnold, R. Williams, H. Morgan; H. Goddard, R. Thomas; N. Harris (capt.), T. White, D. P. R. Scarr, E. W. Timms, H. Grantham, H. Webley, A. James, A. Castle.

Gloucester. – H. Boughton; A. Hudson, T. Stephens, S. Bosley, R. E. Hook; S. Walden, A. Rickards; H. Edwards, R. A. Carter, N. Powell, K. Smith, R. Morris, G. James, H. Barrow, E. Bayliss.

Referee : Mr. Gilbert (Midlands).

LATE START

Owing to the late arrival of the Gloucester team's train, the kick-off was delayed for about a quarter of an hour, and by then the snow which had been falling covered the ground.

Cheltenham kicked off, and a visitor knocked on in fielding. From the scrum the ball came smartly out to Harry Goddard, who was tackled in attempting to kick. A forward rush led by Barrow took the ball into the Cheltenham half, where a penalty was taken by Boughton, and fell short. Leslie Goddard cleared with a kick to touch.

From a throw in near the half-way line Morris, James and Bayliss broke away with the ball at their feet, and were going towards the Cheltenham line when Masters picked up and hung on to allow the Cheltenham pack to regain control.

Cheltenham broke away from their 25 area, but a fine touch kick by Boughton sent them back again. A free kick, however, enabled Harris to clear with a good kick to touch.

Another forward rush by Morris and Bayliss carried Cheltenham back, but, breaking up quickly from the scrum, Scarr and Castle rushed the ball up the field and L. Goddard put it into touch.

Cheltenham were put on the defensive again when a free kick against Cheltenham (because Thomas put the ball into a scrum crooked) was taken by Boughton, who found touch by the home 25.

Thomas picked up and broke away opportunely, but his pass to Webley – well taken – was adjudged forward and the whistle ended a promising movement.

From a scrum the ball came out to the visitors' backs and Bosley kicked across for Hook to be brought down. Cheltenham, with a rush movement, carried the ball down the field, but Walden took the ball and regained ground with a good rush.

A good kick to touch by Masters, who in spite of the conditions was handling and kicking splendidly, put Cheltenham on the attack, and Scarr carried the ball further into the visitors' area at his feet.

Cheltenham stuck dourly to their advantageous position in spite of insistent efforts to clear by Gloucester. They were forced to give ground, however, when Powell, Bayliss and Edwards broke away again. Thomas attempted to kick ahead but Boughton fielded and gave a long kick to touch.

Cheltenham took up a position again in the visitors' territory, when a rush down the wing sent Morgan off with the ball at his feet to gain useful ground before Bosely could put the ball into touch.

They crept upon the Gloucester line, but a kick sent them back, Harry Goddard having the ball knocked from his hands in picking up.

Boughton stopped a likely movement when Leslie Goddard and Arnold followed up a kick into the visitors' 25, and the first half ended with an abortive attempt at a drop goal by H. Goddard.

Half-time :

Cheltenham Nil

Gloucester Nil

Because of the cold and lateness, little time was wasted over the change-over, and in a minute the two teams were re-engaged in their even struggle.

The visitors began to attack, but they were forced back by spasmodic rushes by the Cheltenham pack, and a free kick by Harris gained more ground. Arnold missed with a good attempt at a penalty from a long way out, his kick falling short.

Hudson fielded and kicked up the field for Morgan to get the ball and be brought down in an attempted run down the wing.

Cheltenham kept up a spirited attack, and when the visitors attempted a rush clearance Masters gallantly picked up and sent the ball into touch in the visitors' 25.

Gloucester eventually cleared through a kick ahead by Walden, which L. Goddard took, but slipped up, and Masters sent the ball into touch.

Gloucester then pressed, but a kick ahead by H. Goddard began a series of rushes which established Cheltenham in the visitors' half again.

RACE FOR THE BALL

Cheltenham kept up the attack and Scarr broke away with the ball at his feet, but was beaten in a race for it over the line by Boughton. Arnold nearly got through and then a spectacular rush by Cheltenham and some fly-kicking ended in a pile of players of both sides on the ball over the Gloucester line.

A five-yards scrum was given and another of Gloucester's violent and opportune rushes put Cheltenham on the defensive.

Visibility was by this time bad. A kick ahead enabled Morgan and Williams to carry the ball into Gloucester's area, and Arnold, following up, was racing for the line with it at his feet when Hook saved by kicking it dead.

There were only a few more minutes to go and Cheltenham were attacking hard. Grantham nearly got away on the line, but lost possession of the ball. Then Gloucester cleared, and the final whistle found play on the half-way line.

Final :
Cheltenham Nil
Gloucester Nil