

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1937

GLOUCESTER 6 POINTS; BRISTOL 3 POINTS

PENALTY GOAL DECIDES ISSUE IN LAST MINUTES

BRISTOL UNLUCKY TO BE BEATEN

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester showed little improvement at Kingsholm to record their 52nd victory over their old rivals, Bristol. Of the other 38 engagements between the teams, Bristol have won 30, with eight drawn games.

The Bristol ranks were sadly disorganised, for in addition to Ronnie Morris (on holiday), several other prominent players were absent, and the three-quarter line was practically a new set. Murphy, the county wing forward, strained his ankle whilst training, and for the first time stood down from the side on account of injury. Lynch, a promising three-quarter, damaged his ankle against Clifton in the mid-week match. Other players were doing duty for Somerset.

Gloucester fielded as selected – the same team which defeated Moseley. The attendance was between 5,000 and 6,000 when the teams took the field as follows :

GLOUCESTER.

BACK: H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS: R. E. Hook, E. L. Phillips, C. J. Dibden, and W. H. Hopkin.

HALF-BACKS: D. Meadows and E. R. Day.

FORWARDS: T. Price, A. Carpenter, C. Harris, J. G. A'Bear (capt.), R. Morris, Dr. Dick, A. Welshman, and E. Bayliss.

BRISTOL

FULL-BACK: J. F. Duggan.

THREE-QUARTERS: W. Morgan, R. Pearce, R. A. Anderson, and J. H. Russell.

HALF-BACKS: K. Lewis and P. Redwood.

FORWARDS: A. S. Palmer, F. W. Tucker, A. Jones, A. T. Payne, D. Cummins, G. N. Mason, J. P. Haskins, and W. T. Reynolds.

REFEREE: Mr. B. W. Totton (Leicester).

THE GAME

Before the start the players lined up, and a two-minutes' silence was observed in memory of the late Mr. E. Bostock-Smith, Chairman of the Bristol Club Committee, and former President of the County Union. The Gloucester Club flag was also flown at half-mast.

Bristol kicked off to Price, who got in a fine return, but Duggan fielded nicely, and found a good touch. The Gloucester backs were set going from the line-out, and Phillips, punting high, Hopkin gathered on the run, but was just pushed over the touch-line at the centre.

The home backs were placed on the move again a minute later, but Phillips knocked on, and a promising movement was brought to a close.

A smart effort by Russell and good punt sent to Boughton, who fozzled his kick, and placed his side in danger. Meadows was responsible for shifting play to mid-field again, where Anderson, and later Duggan, shone with well-judged kicks.

Bristol were shaping extremely well all round, and twice in succession the forwards heeled and the backs were very smart in handling and kicking. A sharp follow-up and close tackle placed Bristol inside the home 25, and Pearce, getting the ball from a loose scrum narrowly missed a dropped goal.

A fine touch-finder by Hook gave Gloucester territorial advantage, but the visitors, working well together, kept play well out of danger. Boughton was twice called upon to collect kicks upfield, but he failed to find touch, and Bristol benefited with the returns.

FINE TRY FOR BRISTOL

Gloucester was being worried a good deal forward, and play was keenly contested in the home half. The City failed to make any impression, and were forced back on the defensive.

Following a high kick ahead HASKINS raced up and took the ball cleverly. He handed off an attempted tackle by Boughton, and finished a splendid individual effort with a good try. Duggan made a good attempt at conversion.

The score was well merited, and Bristol's success was heartily cheered. Gloucester resumed vigorously, and a good forward rush tested the Bristol defence.

The visitors replied with a passing run which made a good slice of ground, and the centre was the scene of operations again. Gloucester brought off another strong rush, and Bristol being penalised Boughton had a shot for goal, but was a long way out, and Bristol cleared.

GLOUCESTER'S POOR FORM

Subsequent play was fairly even with Bristol showing the better combination and initiative. Gloucester's form on the whole was very disappointing, and mistakes led to Bristol forcing the attack again. Boughton had a kick charged down, but luckily the ball rolled to touch.

Not to be denied, Bristol continued to be very aggressive, and clever interpassing nearly brought about a score. Hopkins' speed, however, was too much for Russell, who was beautifully tackled when looking dangerous.

CLEVER BRISTOL BACKS

Gloucester, try as they would, could not get going, and Bristol were having all the play just now. Redwood failed with a drop at goal, but later the visitors with clever back play attacked strongly.

A penalty kick against Bristol eventually enabled the City to change the position of play, but there was no finish in combined movements, Hopkins alone showing form of any standard.

Once Gloucester worked beyond the 25, but well-judged touch kicks enabled Bristol to keep their line out of danger.

Boughton, mis-judging the bounce of the ball, let Bristol well in, and the home defence was hotly assailed. Bristol had a distinct advantage in later play, but there was no further scoring.

Half-time :

Gloucester Nil

Bristol 1 try

Bristol's excellent form surprised their most optimistic supporters. All round the visitors were in the ascendancy, and were value for more than the three points' lead.

Forward, the Bristol pack had quite their share of the ball, and Redwood, at scrum-half was a live wire. He had splendid support from the third line, all the young players showing smartness and initiative, the handling being particularly good.

Gloucester restarted but were quickly forced to their half, the visiting forwards following up and tackling with great effect.

Day and Hook combined in a series of transfers down touch, and the latter raced away and over the line, but it was a wasted effort, as the whistle had gone for a forward transfer early on.

BRISTOL KEEP IT UP

Bristol, encouraged by their surprising success, worked finely together and were clearly superior in constructive work.

Eventually the City, with a passing run in their own 25, broke away, Boughton punting high up the field.

Duggan was pressed, and the City, with loose work, continued the onward movement. Phillips tried to break through from a short pass by Meadows, but Bristol's keen defence prevented anything tangible resulting.

Gloucester did better in the next few minutes, and from a penalty on the 25 line Boughton had a chance of levelling matters, but missed.

SCORES EQUAL

Bristol, by timely kicking, worked out of immediate danger, but just inside the centre line.

Day broke away on the short side of the scrum and served HOOK. The left wing sprinted down touch, and, beating Russell cleverly crossed with a try in the corner. Boughton failed to convert.

With the scores level, the game became keener with the forwards. Boughton had a shot for goal from half-way, but was very short, and Bristol punted out.

Back Gloucester came through good efforts by Day and Hook, and Duggan was lucky in making a mark on his line.

The City, however, could do little with combined passing, and the ball never reached Hopkin.

Penalties against Gloucester for scrum infringements lost them a lot of ground, and play was again at the home end.

STIRRING STRUGGLE

It was a stirring struggle forward, with Bristol more than holding their own, but for a time the ball was kept very close.

Boughton, who again came up with the threequarters, put in a huge punt which went beyond Duggan. The latter ran back to recover, but fumbled in trying to pick up, and Hopkins was close up when Pearce managed to clear.

Gloucester put up severe pressure now, and Bristol were kept busily defending. Price made a strong dash, but was overwhelmed, but Gloucester later went to the line. They were beaten off, only to see the City return. There were some quick changes in mid-field, and Dibden was well away, but threw a wild pass to Hopkin and a scoring chance was lost.

BOUGHTON'S PENALTY GOAL DECIDES THE GAME

The concluding minutes showed no slackening off in the pace of the game. Boughton was prominent with some big kicking, and once Meadows shot through and short-punted but was unlucky to knock-on in regaining the ball on the rebound.

Another big kick by Boughton put Gloucester on the aggressive, and the visitors' defence was severely tested. Then Bristol were penalised just inside the 25 line, and Boughton, taking careful aim, landed a good goal.

These proved the winning points, the end coming shortly afterwards.

RESULT:

GLOUCESTER ... 1 gl. (p), 1 try (6 pts.)

BRISTOL 1 try (3 pts.)