

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1937

GLO'STER BACKS SHINE

HOPKIN SCORES TWO TRIES

FINE VICTORY

For their first visit to Bedford, Gloucester had to call on several reserves to replace Phillips, Carpenter, Price and Morris (engaged for the County), and A'Bear, Hook and Hughes (on the injured list).

Tanner made his first appearance of the season at three-quarter, and new forwards in R. H. Watkins and W. A. McColville were included in the pack. In the absence of A'Bear, Harold Boughton captained the side.

There was heavy rain at Bedford this morning, but it was fine when the game began.

Bedford made two changes, their international forwards, Milman and Cook, being absent.

A'Bear, who had to decline the County game owing to a strained thigh ligament, was on the line.

GLOUCESTER

BACK: H. Boughton (capt.).

THREE-QUARTERS: C. C. Tanner, J. H. Bown, C. J. Dibden, and W. H. Hopkin.

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

FORWARDS: C. Harris, R. A. Carter, R. H. Watkins, W. A. McColville, F. Mustoe, W. Barrow, G. Mabbett, and Dr. Dick.

BEDFORD

FULL-BACK: R. Eidsforth.

THREE-QUARTERS: G. B. Coleman, J. O. B. Power, J. H. Rogers, and V. J. Lyttle.

HALF-BACKS: E. H. Grieve and W. A. Sime.

FORWARDS: G. T. Dancer, R. D. Perkins, T. Thomas, E. A. Joy, R. E. Black, R. Willsher, O. V. Bevan, and R. L. Moore.

THE GAME

An early rush by Gloucester was checked, Eidsforth sending the ball to halfway after a punt forward by Meadows. Bedford swung into the attack, and Lyttle, dribbling, carried activities to a couple of yards from the line. Sime was stopped from going over, but as the ball came loose, Eidsforth began a passing movement, sending Coleman away. Hopkin collared him, and Rogers was grounded, too.

A dangerous position was threatening the visitors, but Boughton relieved from a free-kick. Another bout of handling by the home backs broke down when Rogers over-ran Power's pass.

Gloucester broke away and gained ground, but Bedford were soon aggressive again. Clever play by Sime and Willsher placed Gloucester further back on the defensive.

Bedford were certainly showing bright form. Sime got clear and kicked ahead, and in a race for the ball, Hopkin came across and beat Lyttle for the touch down. A raid by Gloucester was repulsed in striking fashion by Bedford.

HOPKIN OPENS SCORING

Gloucester nipped back and Dibden was all but over when Bevan brought him down and made sure of a safer position for his team.

The Bedford forwards were in form and Black came away with the ball and handed on to Bevan who kicked ahead and caught Boughton in possession. The Gloucester defence was sound and they cleared their line.

This was followed by some delightful passing by the visitors, which ended in HOPKIN going over for an unconverted try in the corner.

Gloucester lost Colville[*sic*] with an injured leg.

After midfield scrums Bedford advanced, Willsher and Dancer making bold bids to force their way over.

Boughton and Eidsforth were distinguishing themselves with excellent kicking and fielding. After a period of defensive play, Gloucester came near scoring, Hopkin racing for the line at great speed. He was nearly over when brought down by Eidsforth.

Dibden went off for a time holding his shoulder, and when he returned Bedford were attacking strongly.

Just before the interval SIME broke away from a scrum and touched down between the posts and put his side in front by converting.

Half-time :

Bedford 1 goal
Gloucester 1 try

The first incident of note after the resumption was a fine forward rush by Bedford. Gloucester's sound defence prevailed, however, and play moved back to mid-field.

Again the Bedford forwards rushed away, this time handling, and Hopkin did well to intercept a pass. Sime was playing baffling football and repeatedly broke away from the scrum.

Gloucester were not spent as an attacking force, and their forwards were only stopped with difficulty, and later Hopkin made a good attempt at a dropped goal.

A free kick for offside gave Sime an opportunity of transferring play to the other end. Within a short time Gloucester were back, their three-quarters passing swiftly.

It was hard, bright rugby with little to choose between the sides. It was Gloucester's period of ascendancy now, and they pressed hard in the home territory.

Off-side against Bedford gave BOUGHTON a chance to land a penalty goal and he did so.

Rain began to fall, but the game did not slacken in pace.

Gloucester kept play in Bedford territory, and a clever movement by the backs resulted in HOPKIN flying through for another converted try.

With only seven minutes to go Bedford rallied their forces and Coleman and Grieve changed places. Gloucester, however, did the bulk of the attacking, their backs being very fast.

Dancer led a great advance by Bedford and Gloucester were forced to carry the ball over the line.

Gloucester were penalised for off-side, but the kick did not help Bedford, for the visitors had the ball at the other end in a flash.

RESULT :

BEDFORD 1 GOAL (5 Pts.)
GLOUCESTER ... 1 GOAL (p) 2 TRIES (9 Pts.)