

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1937

BATH 3 Pts.; GLOUCESTER NIL

HOME SIDE GAIN EXCITING WIN IN LAST MINUTE

GLO'STER FAIL TO BREAK 10 YEARS' RUN OF DEFEATS

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester's run of success was unexpectedly checked to-day, when Bath, at home, added yet another to their list of victories at the expense of the City.

Gloucester have not won at Bath since season 1926-7, when the team under R. N. Loveridge's captaincy, were successful by 13 points to 6.

Of the last eleven games Bath have now won eight and drawn three.

Both clubs had prominent absentees, Carpenter and Tanner being missing from the Gloucester ranks while Bath lacked the services of Gerrard.

Tanner was on the injured list, and Carpenter was appearing for W. E. Tucker's International XV in a charity match in London.

Changes in the Bath team were J. S. Bartlett and J. S. White for Robinson and Foster at three-quarter, and F. A. Evans and A. Ash for Blake and Sam Unwin, forwards.

GLOUCESTER

BACK: H. Boughton.

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

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

FORWARDS: T. Price, R. H. Watkins, C. Harris, J. G. A'Bear (capt.), R. Morris, W. Barrow, S. Mabbett, and H. M. Hughes.

BATH

BACK: H. Buse.

THREE-QUARTERS: J. S. Bartlett, J. S. White, C. R. West, and L. D. Wardle.

HALF-BACKS: T. R. Harris and J. M. Bowen.

FORWARDS: F. Unwin, F. A. Evans, A. Ash, J. Wood, K. Foss, P. Moon, L. Phillips, and K. Weiss.

Referee: Mr. G. Goldsworthy (Newport).

THE GAME

The start was delayed 10 minutes owing to the late arrival of the visitors. The afternoon was fine and the ground was in capital condition. The attendance was about 2,000.

From Gloucester's kick-off Ash started passing and the ball went out to the left wing, the transfer going astray. Exchange kicking led to Boughton having an early drop at goal and a fine effort went just wide of the upright.

The City attacked in loose forward play, and later Hook sent out a long pass to the centre of the field.

Phillips gathered nicely, and Bown, who was served, punted high, but Buse picked up and sent to touch.

Gloucester had the better of the exchanges and went very close, Buse again managing to clear.

Off-side by Price led to a penalty against Gloucester and brought relief to the home team. Strong forward work by the home pack changed the position of play, and Gloucester were placed on the defensive.

For a few minutes the visitors were hotly pressed but Hughes and Bown cleared finely, and dribbled past Buse. West and Wardle, however, got back and saved a desperate situation. After a short spell of play in mid-field, Harris broke through with a strong run for Bath. He punted ahead and Boughton had to run back to save.

MARVELLOUS SAVE

The Gloucester forwards were stopped in a promising burst, and then Dibden failed to gather from a long punt which gave Bath a good position 10 yards from the City line.

Matters looked ugly for a time, and the situation was finally saved by good kicking.

From a penalty Foss attempted a shot for goal. His kick was short, and Boughton punted out.

Gloucester tried passing, which broke down, and a wild transfer allowed Bath to get clear away, Boughton making a marvellous save and clearance.

Gloucester were forced to their 25, where Meadows shone with a lovely run, clearing opponents with a clever side-step. He actually got past Buse, but was collared from behind, and a glorious chance of scoring was lost.

Gloucester were doing well just now, the backs combining splendidly, but Bath offered a stout resistance.

STERLING DEFENCE

Boughton was again in evidence with a fine kick, gaining touch with a 30 yards punt from his own 25. Then the City forwards moved ahead with a clever dribble, Hughes leading.

The home defence was in serious danger, but Buse came to the rescue at the critical moment, and the line escaped.

Gloucester maintained the aggressive, and although there was some good individual work, finish was lacking when possible openings presented themselves. It was keen hard football, the defence always being superior to the attack.

Gloucester opened out, Hook running across and punting. The ball was neatly gathered by Buse and sent to touch. Wardle, with a good dash, caused Gloucester trouble, and a mis-kick by a visitor nearly let Bath in.

Meadows brought relief with a sharp break-away and punt, and the centre was again the scene of operations. Gloucester worked hard for a score, and combined movements took them close to the line.

From a scrum close in Bath were penalised for off-side, but Boughton failed with his place kick for goal.

HALF-TIME :

Bath	Nil
Gloucester	Nil

The game had been keenly contested especially among the forwards, but the back play on both sides showed a lack of resource and finish. Both full-backs had performed finely, being very safe when danger threatened.

A splendid reply by Buse soon after the restart placed Bath in a good position in the visitors' 25.

KEEN DEFENDERS

Mainly through the efforts of Meadows and Bown, Gloucester gained a footing in the centre, and working well together they made Bath defend seriously for the first time this half.

A mist gathered and it was difficult to follow the play accurately on the far side of the ground.

Gloucester maintained their hold on the game for a short period, but Bath were keen defenders and gave nothing away.

With a splendid passing bout the home backs looked dangerous but smothering tackles saved Gloucester a few yards from the line.

BARROW INJURED

Gloucester worked out a few yards, but Harris cut through, and punted to the line, where Boughton made a mark and gained 20 yards with his kick.

Bath quickly worked back with loose rushes, and for the next minutes had the better of the exchanges. From a long punt out by Boughton Harris fielded and ran through nicely. He smartly kicked to the goal line where Boughton was forced to carry over, and exciting scrums followed 10 yards out, Gloucester having a very anxious time.

From a sharp pass Harris made a desperate bid for a corner try, but was smothered a yard outside. Boughton was instrumental in bringing temporary relief.

Bath returned with dashing forward work, and the Gloucester line was hard pressed.

Barrow, who had previously been off the field for a few minutes, was again injured, and had to be carried off suffering from concussion and a cut on the head.

When the game resumed exchanges were very desperate. Gloucester staved off a couple of sharp attacks, and then Boughton went to the fore once again with some long kicking, which brought Gloucester breathing space.

The position, however, was soon lost, for Bath rushed to the other end, and Gloucester had a lucky escape.

A free kick to Gloucester enabled Meadows to gain 30 yards with a well-judged touch-finder. Bath came back with a desperate effort to force a score. The City's defence held out splendidly, and they had one or two narrow escapes.

Boughton had the chance of securing three points for a penalty, but a good effort failed, Buse punting out to touch.

Gloucester, with a series of transfers, looked to have a possible opening, but the tackling was too good and nothing resulted.

Right at the end Bath combined well, and BARTLETT, with a brilliant run, beat Boughton and scored a fine try. Foss just missed with the kick.

RESULT :

BATH 1 try (3 points)
GLOUCESTER Nil

COMMENTS

Bath's winning try came at the last minute and provided an exciting finish to a desperately keen game. Victory on the play went to the better side.