

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECHO

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1937

CHELTENHAM BEAT GLO'STER EIGHT POINTS TO THREE

VICTORY AGAINST OLD RIVALS

STERN STRUGGLE ON ATHLETIC GROUND

Cheltenham were at full strength for their fixture with Gloucester at the Athletic Ground.

The Gloucester team was not so strong as usual, several regular players away assisting the County.

The teams were as follows: –

Cheltenham. – R. Williams; J. H. Hunter, F. B. Brandt, R. Arnold, H. Morgan; H. Goddard, S. Owen; A. Castle, T. White, R. Baldwin, S. Cook, H. Webley, Dr. M. Shapiro, D. P. R. Scarr (capt.), and H. Grantham.

Gloucester. – T. Stephens; R. E. Early, C. J. Dibden, D. Meadows, C. C. Tanner; F. Walden, E. R. Day; R. A. Carter, R. H. Watkins, C. Harris, J. G. A'Bear (capt.), W. H. McColville, S. Mabbett, W. Barrow, and H. M. Hughes.

Gloucester kicked off before a large crowd, and Owen fielding neatly found a good touch.

Goddard set his men in motion from the line out which followed, but Brandt fumbled his pass and Barrow intercepted, to send Meadows dashing for the line. An off-side was ruled, however, and Cheltenham cleared.

## GLOUCESTER PRESS

Gloucester continued to press, and gathering 20 yards out, Dibden tried a drop goal under pressure, but the ball hit the upright – a narrow escape for Cheltenham. The home pack replied with a spirited rush led by Webley and Shapiro that took play well into the Gloucester 25.

Stephens cleared with difficulty, and Arnold, gathering neatly, took a drop for goal, but he too was unlucky, the ball falling just short. More forceful work by the Cheltenham eight kept Gloucester penned on their own line until Day cleared with a long touch-finder.

## SPLENDID KICK

After a five-minute sojourn in their own half, Gloucester penetrated Cheltenham territory following more good kicking by Stephens. They did not stay there long, however, for Arnold found touch ten yards from the visitors' line with a splendid penalty kick.

So far play had been rather scrappy, and neither set of backs had been seen in effective action. The home forwards were more than holding their own and Cheltenham had done most of the pressing.

At last the Gloucester backs handled. Meadows shone in a brilliant side-stepping run, in which he beat half-a-dozen opponents before handing to Dibden. A score looked inevitable, but the referee ruled a forward pass – another lucky escape for Cheltenham.

The home forwards shone in some heavy loose exchanges which gained ground, and gathering from a set scrum on the Gloucester 25 line Goddard attempted a drop goal. A cheer went up from the crowd, but it was premature, for the ball just grazed the outside of the upright, and the cheer turned to a groan of disappointment.

Do what they would, Gloucester could not get clear of their own half, but, on the other hand, Cheltenham could not press home their advantage.

## CHELTENHAM LEAD

Six minutes from half-time Cheltenham took the lead, ARNOLD landing a splendid penalty goal from long range. They had worked hard for that lead and deserved it.

Encouraged by their success the Cheltenham forwards drove Gloucester back to their line in an irresistible rush. Meadows came to the rescue with a clever mark and brought welcome relief with a long kick to touch.

The Gloucester backs handled uncertainly, and Dibden went away at speed to be sent flying into touch by the hard-tackling Brandt. Excitement grew as the home forwards attacked once more, and Shapiro forged ahead, forcing Stephens to kick over the dead ball line.

The game was held up while Barrow, a Gloucester forward, was carried off in a semi-conscious condition. As he was being carried off Owen, the Cheltenham scrum-half, who had been off the field with an injury, returned.

Soon afterwards the half-time whistle blew with Cheltenham still holding their narrow lead.

Half-time :

Cheltenham ..... 1 p.g. (3pts.)

Gloucester ..... Nil

After receiving attention from ambulance men, Burrow returned to the field again after the interval.

Showing even more dash than they had in the first half, the Gloucester pack went half the length of the field in a strong burst. The ball went over the Cheltenham line, but Williams won the race for the touch-down.

Williams shone in an interchange of kicks with Stephens, and a set scrum followed in the Gloucester 25. Day set his backs in motion with a clever pass but Walden was quickly tackled by Arnold and another Gloucester attack had come to naught.

### GLOUCESTER EQUALISE

More heavy work followed in the loose, and after the second half had been in progress eight minutes STEPHENS put Gloucester on equal terms with a glorious penalty goal landed from 15 yards inside the Cheltenham half near the touchline – a fine kick.

Play grew even more keen, and in the forward battle that followed tempers showed signs of becoming a little frayed. The tackling on both sides was deadly, and neither set of backs could get far.

A neat solo run by Arnold, followed by a long punt, put Cheltenham in scoring position, but Owen was ruled off-side in a set scrum that followed, and Stephens found touch near the half-way line.

### GALLANT EFFORT

Gathering a high punt, Williams, the Cheltenham full-back, made a gallant but ineffective effort to break through. The home backs handled neatly, and Hunter went away on the wing, but tried to hand-off Tanner, but the Gloucester winger brought him down ten yards out.

Then a splendid piece of opportunism gave Cheltenham the lead once more. Controlling the ball cleverly, Morgan dribbled his way along the line, out-manœuvring Early. He kicked over the Gloucester line and SHAPIRO, who had followed up at speed, flung himself on the ball for a try. ARNOLD added the goal points to put Cheltenham five points up.

Gloucester fought back hard, and a series of forward rushes took them within striking distance. Stephens had hard luck with a penalty, the ball passing inches outside; then Cheltenham worked clear.

Final:

Cheltenham ..... 2 goals (1p.) (8 pts.)

Gloucester ..... 1 pen. goal (3 pts.)

JC