

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECHO

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1937

PENALTY GOAL GIVES GLO'STER VICTORY OVER CHELTENHAM

KEEN STRUGGLE AT KINGSHOLM

GALLANT EFFORTS BY ARNOLD AND SCARR

STEPHENS SCORES

With both sides short of several of their regular players, Gloucester and Cheltenham were very evenly matched for the game at Kingsholm to-day.

Cheltenham had an 8–3 victory over the City at the Athletic Ground a few weeks ago, and they went all out for a double over their old rivals – a feat they had not accomplished for many years.

The teams were as follow : –

Cheltenham: R. Williams; I. H. Wethey, J. A. S. Baker, R. Arnold, H. Morgan; H. Goddard, A. Elliott; A. Castle, T. White, A. Baldwin, S. Cook, H. G. Atwood, H. Grantham, D. D. Pim, D. P. R. Scarr (capt.).

Gloucester: T. Stephens; E. L. Warr, H. Pollard, C. J. Dibden, R. Early; D. Meadows, E. R. Day; R. A. Carter, R. H. Watkins, T. Day, J. A'Bear (capt.), W. Barrow, Dr. Dick, S. Mabett, J. McColville.

Referee: Mr. G. Goldsworthy.

Fog and a light drizzle made playing conditions miserable, but a large crowd braved the cold and damp to see the match.

FORWARD BURST

Gloucester kicked off and gained ground with a forward burst that had Cheltenham defending hard. The visitors made a quick reply with a grand loose rush, in which Castle and Grantham handled for the latter to pass to Scarr.

The Cheltenham captain forged ahead to hand off two opponents and touch down near the corner-flag, but his foot had just dragged over touch, and a line-out followed.

Grantham got the ball and flung himself over the Gloucester line, but an infringement was ruled – two strokes of very bad luck for Cheltenham.

Gloucester worked back to the visitors' 25 with a series of sharp bursts, and from a set scrum the home backs handled. Accepting a pass Wethey raced ahead, but was forced into touch.

So far, the Gloucester backs had handled ineffectively and Cheltenham had little difficulty in breaking up their attacks. The two packs were waging a tremendously keen battle, and up to now there had been little to choose between them.

Two penalty kicks in quick succession put Gloucester in a scoring position, and gathering from a set scrum five yards out from the Cheltenham line, Warr made a determined effort to force his way over, but was held up by Williams and Wethey just in time.

CHELTENHAM PRESSED

A loose scrummage followed and for the next few minutes Cheltenham were kept busy defending their line.

A strong forward rush led by Grantham brought welcome relief, and a long touch finder from Arnold brought play back to the Gloucester half.

Gathering from a loose mix up, Meadows set the Gloucester backs in motion and Warr tore for the line.

Travelling at top speed and with only Wethey between him and the Cheltenham line, he looked like scoring, but Wethey made sure of his man and brought him down with a grand tackle.

The Gloucester pack were having the better of the exchanges now, and were giving their backs plenty of chances, but Cheltenham's defence was stolid.

After 30 minutes' play Gloucester took the lead when STEPHENS landed a penalty goal from 40 yards out.

Half-time :
Gloucester... 1 pen. goal (3pts.)
Cheltenham Nil

On the resumption, Scarr changed places with Elliott and worked the Cheltenham scrum.

Cheltenham forwards opened the second half at top speed and forced Gloucester back to their line with a good combined rush in which Grantham and Scarr figured.

Meadows finally got his side out of a dangerous position with a neat swerving run and a long punt.

Dick and A'Bear led the home eight in a glorious loose burst of half the length of the field, and it was finally stopped by Arnold, who flung himself on the ball at the feet of the charging Gloucester forwards.

Cheltenham fought back splendidly and gradually forced the home side back to their own half. Both sides were finding the greasy ball difficult to hold, and handling movements were rare.

Arnold shone in a brilliant solo dash along the line in which he beat three opponents before he was sent into touch 10 yards out – a grand effort and a welcome change from the loose forward scrambles which were the order of the day.

Grantham was carried off five minutes from the end with an injury to the leg.

The strenuous battle between the two packs continued with Cheltenham a man short.

Cheltenham tried desperately to get level, but the Gloucester defence held, and there was no further score

Final :

Gloucester 1 pen. goal (3pts.)

Cheltenham Nil

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