

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1938

GLOUCESTER 9 Pts., BEDFORD 8 Pts.

GLOUCESTER'S FIRST "DOUBLE" OF THE SEASON

WEAKENED SIDE'S REMARKABLE PERFORMANCE

GAME SPOILED BY WIND

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester obtained their first double victory of the season to-day, when Bedford, beaten at home by 9 points to 5, again fell to the City at Kingsholm. As in the first match, Gloucester had to call on several reserves.

The seriously weakened Gloucester ranks were further depleted by late changes, Phillips and Meadows both having to withdraw from the side.

Meadows developed throat trouble yesterday and took to his bed, and Phillips could not make the journey from Oxford.

These defections necessitated a revision of the back division. Walden, the United outside half, was introduced vice Meadows, and L. V. Manning, a recruit to the United, and an Old Wycliffe boy, joined Dibden at centre three-quarter.

Thus Gloucester's reserves were increased to seven.

Two further changes forward were made in the Bedford team.

GLOUCESTER

BACK: T. Stevens.

THREE-QUARTERS: R. E. Hook, C. J. Dibden, L. V. Manning, and R. E. Early.

HALF-BACKS: S. Walden and E. R. Day.

FORWARDS: A. Carpenter, R. H. Watkins, C. Harris, W. A. McColville, R. Morris, S. Mabbett, H. M. Hughes, and Dr. Dick.

BEDFORD

BACK: R. Eidsforth.

THREE-QUARTERS: T. D. Thevenard, T. B. Coleman, J. G. Rogers, and V. G. Lyttle.

HALF-BACKS: J. O. B. Power and M. E. Staples.

FORWARDS: G. T. Dancer, R. D. Perkins, A. Joy, L. B. Black, P. Previte, R. Willsher, G. A. Kelby, and J. G. Cooke.

Referee: Mr. S. H. Budd (Somerset Union).

THE GAME

There was only a poor attendance – the smallest of the season for a First fixture, when Bedford kicked off in a blustering wind.

Carpenter acted as captain for the City team. Early play favoured the visitors, and Rogers being nicely served by Power he made a brilliant break through to Stephens, but his pass was knocked on by Power.

Gloucester were operating against the high wind, and this was a big handicap, Bedford kicking with judgment. The City made one or two useful moves, Stephens being called upon to save dangerous bursts.

Bedford were getting the ball pretty frequently from the scrums and lines-out, but were unable to get going properly. Two touch-downs, however, were conceded from kicks over the line.

The Gloucester backs resorted to passing from a movement initiated by Day, but the final transfer was fumbled and Thevenard dashed away down touch. He was, however, checked in time.

Gloucester made good relief with the aid of a penalty, and when the Bedford backs got moving Dibden dashed in with a smothering tackle. The ball rolled loose, but Gloucester missed it, and touch was found in the home 25.

TRY FOR BEDFORD

After this Bedford had a possible chance from a kick-out, but the passing was too slow, and this time Manning upset Coleman splendidly. Working well together the Gloucester forwards brought off a dashing burst beyond the centre, but Bedford quickly recovered.

In some loose play Coleman picked up, and punted ahead and over the line. ROGERS dashed up to score an easy try. Previte converted.

HUGHES PROMINENT

Gloucester did better work on the restart, the forwards shining in some good loose work. Then Hughes broke away beautifully for 30 yards, but Hook, to whom he passed, was forced to touch.

Gloucester, however, made further progress, and Manning was prominent with a sharp burst, but for passing from the ground after being tackled he was penalised, and with the kick Bedford found touch beyond the home 25. The City quickly changed the position with loose footwork, and there was a brief spell of play ten yards inside the Gloucester half.

Kicking with judgment, however, Bedford went to the attack again after Eidsforth had failed with a long shot for goal from a penalty. Fast play followed, in which Gloucester fought gallantly against odds. Bedford tried one or two attacks from punts ahead, but met with no success.

GLOUCESTER SHOW UP STRONGLY

Gloucester showed up splendidly for the next few minutes, the forwards breaking up quickly and tackling fearlessly. Bedford were forced back after some sharp exchanges, and

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. . . wind, but Gloucester prevented them getting dangerous. For the next few minutes play was evenly contested at the centre. The City once got moving nicely, but the final pass was not accepted.

Hook and Walden combined in a brilliant bit of work which looked promising, but Bedford just managed to save. The City worked desperately hard to get on terms, but without success.

HALF-TIME :

Gloucester	Nil
Bedford	1 goal

Considering their depleted side, and having to play against a high wind, Gloucester had done better than expected in keeping their opponents' score to five points.

Gloucester commenced to rush matters immediately on the resumption and Bedford were forced on the defensive.

From passing Early was twice in possession, but Lyttle brought him down each time. Play went over to the Bedford right, where Thevenard made a sharp dash and kick ahead. The movement was carried down touch and the ball centred. The visiting forwards dribbled on, where Stephens saved.

But it was only a temporary check, for in the next moment JOY carried over the line for a try. Previte failed at goal, but Bedford led by eight points.

DIBDEN'S DROPPED GOAL

On the restart Gloucester at once went to the attack, and forced a minor. From the drop-out DIBDEN received, and with a grand kick dropped a goal, reducing the arrears to four points.

Gloucester had all the play for the next few minutes, but the attacks lacked the necessary finish. Still the City persevered, and with a little luck might have got through. Bedford replied with some dashing footwork half the length of the field, but Stephens held them up.

Back the City went to the aggressive, and Stephens tried a 60 yards drop for goal which was only a short distance out. A break through by Manning gave the visitors trouble, but Hughes, to whom he passed, was well tackled by Eidsforth.

GLOUCESTER TAKE THE LEAD

Gloucester were having all the play just now and Bedford were sorely tested. But things did not finish satisfactorily. Eventually there was a burst by Harris and a pass to Hook, who came along and passed inside to Hughes. The latter made a desperate effort to clear but was bowled over.

In some loose play, however, the ball was got across to HOOK on the left, who, sprinting hard, cleared Thevenard and raced round for a fine try. Stephens converted with a neat kick and Gloucester took the lead 9–8.

Play on the restart was very exciting. The Gloucester forwards were prominent with a grand 30 yards dash, but Bedford recovered with good passing. The City, however, not to be put off, were on the aggressive again, Dick dashing away in possession of the ball. He finally punted past Eidsforth to the line, but was badly obstructed by the full-back and Bedford were penalised. Stephens made a splendid bid for goal, but just missed.

GLOUCESTER'S STRONG ATTACKS

Gloucester worked hard to increase their narrow lead, and Hook was only a few seconds out in following up a long punt to the Bedford line. The visitors rallied and Thevenard made a spirited bid to get clear but was forced over the touch line.

[Remainder of this report is unavailable; removed from original.]

JC