

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY DECEMBER 12, 1925

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM

CITY LOSE BY A POINT

VISITORS DISPLAY BETTER MARKING IN SCRAPPY GAME

With eight players engaged for Gloucestershire in the Championship match at Bristol, and Dr. Taylor and A. T. Voyce in the English trial game at Carlisle, Gloucester were very weakly represented for the return match with Cheltenham at Kingsholm, and the fixture therefore lost a good deal of interest. Cheltenham lacked the services of W. Hart, also playing for the county at Bristol.

GLOUCESTER

BACK : S. Williams.

THREE-QUARTERS : L. Abbey, A. Hopcroft, E. L. Saxby, and R. C. Thompson.

HALF-BACKS : G. Thomas and S. Collins.

FORWARDS : E. Triggs-Herbert, H. Roberts, S. Duberley, R. Smart, G. Foulkes, G. Shaw, A. Rea, and G. McIlwaine.

CHELTENHAM

FULL-BACK : A. Vaughan.

THREE-QUARTERS : W. Fellows, H. Goring, W. Watson, and A. Goddard.

HALF-BACKS : B. S. Bloodworth (capt.), and E. Dyer.

FORWARDS : T. Harry, S. Birt, R. Worgan, A. Coulson, A. G. Maby, V. Statham, D. J. Stayte, and W. Febrey.

Referee : Mr. H. J. Trafford (Whitecroft)

THE GAME

Triggs-Herbert led the City team out, and the game started a quarter of an hour late before about 2,000 spectators. The Cheltenham forwards started with good work in the loose, by means of which their threes got an opening almost under the City's goal posts.

Wretched passing on the visiting left wing lost a splendid opportunity. Cheltenham continued to control the ball in footwork, and they put on severe pressure, in which Vaughan was conspicuous for good touch-finding.

Showing plenty of courage in going down to the ball in the visitors' attacks, the home threes made Cheltenham give ground. The footing was not too secure, and the ball proved extremely slippery when handling was attempted.

The City made their first visit to the Cheltenham half of the field after ten minutes' play, and then Thomas and Hopcroft opened out. The attack was taken to the visitors' goal line, where Watson picked up and ran cleverly to find touch near mid-field.

Saxby initiated another Gloucester advance on the left wing, and Dyer was penalised for offside at the scrum near the goal line. WILLIAMS kicked the goal, and the City were three points up.

Some desperate rallies followed near the visiting goal, but a penalty to Cheltenham enabled the latter to change the scene of action. Watson ran nearly half the length of the field, and was pulled down a few yards from the line by Thompson.

Gloucester swept back again, and after vigorous exchanges Cheltenham lost the services of two players for a few minutes. Both recovered and returned.

So far the game had been spiritedly contested, but clever movements were scarce owing to the prevalence of ill-judged passing by the threes on both sides. This was seen particularly in an attack by Goddard and Watson, the final transfer being extremely reckless. VAUGHAN created surprise and a deserving cheer when he smartly dropped a goal from near the half-way line.

HALF-TIME :

CHELTENHAM 1 goal (d)

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (p)

Gloucester opened the second half with determined pressure until bad passing threw away all the advantage, and GODDARD, beating Hopcroft for possession, ran past Williams to score a try, which Vaughan could not improve upon.

There was another long period of scrappy play, in which the Cheltenham marking and tackling continued to be their greatest asset. The Gloucester backs seemed to be unable to take a pass, although some of the transfers were extremely wild.

After fifteen minutes Cheltenham lost a player through injury. Two off-side decisions against Cheltenham saw Williams fail in both attempts to kick a penalty goal. After strong pressure ROBERTS got a fine try for the City, but Williams failed to convert from a good position.

With only one point separating the teams the exchanges became keener than ever without any improvement in the quality of the tactics.

In the closing minutes Cheltenham were penalised for a bad foul, and Williams just missed the post with a fine kick.

RESULT :

CHELTENHAM 1 goal (d), 1 try (7 pts.)

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (p), 1 try (6 pts.)

REMARKS

If the Gloucester players profit from the excellence of the marking and tackling that Cheltenham showed, then the City's defeat will do them, especially the reserves, a world of good. Any method that was shown in this game was credited to Cheltenham, who deserved their narrow victory on the actual play.

The City backs were keen enough, but could not take passes, while Thomas, at stand-off half, was right out of form. Had he displayed anything like his usually good conception of tactics Gloucester would have laid the foundation of victory in the first half. Vaughan, except for a poor effort to kick a penalty, was one of the best players on view.

JC