

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27, 1926

GLOUCESTER v. BATH

CITY BEATEN BY A TRY

VISITING FORWARDS' GOOD WORK

Bath, like Gloucester, have had a run of bad luck this season, and their record prior to meeting the City this afternoon showed 18 defeats as against five wins and one drawn game. Gloucester were still without Williams at full-back, and Voyce was absent again owing to the International match at Twickenham. M. Short was injured in training during the week, and his place was taken by G. Foulkes.

Bath had practically the same team as against the London Welsh last week, except that Gibbs appeared in the place of Hustable and Slade went from half to full-back.

Teams : —

GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Thomas.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. C. Thompson, S. A. Brown, E. H. Hughes, and S. R. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS : T. Millington and R. Milliner.

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe, G. Foulkes, J. Hemmings, S. Duberley, M. Short, E. Triggs-Herbert, H. Roberts, G. McIlwaine, and G. Shaw.

BATH

BACK : H. Slade.

THREE-QUARTERS : L. H. Scott, W. J. Gibbs, E. Chard, and H. C. Partridge.

HALF-BACKS : C. Brinkworth and G. Nudds.

FORWARDS : H. B. L. Wake, J. C. Jukes, R. S. Chaddock, A. Milsom, E. Dunscombe, W. D. Banyard, F. J. Love, and J. Dobson.

Referee : Mr. T. H. Vile.

There was a large crowd on the Recreation Ground, additional interest being created by the fact that a large number of Bristol University students who are holding a "rag" in Bath to-day in aid of the local hospital, invaded the ground in costumes.

The visitors started, but there was no reply, and the Gloucester forwards dribbled to the home 25. Millington punted well, and Slade failing to gather, nearly let the visitors in. A Bath forward rush, well headed by Wake, eased the situation a little, and Scott picking up in the loose broke through to midfield, where he was well tackled by Brown.

Bath again attacked, this time through Brinkworth, who got through nicely before transferring to Chard. The latter threw to Gibbs, but he was not allowed to get far, Thompson tackling him near the 25 flag. Gloucester retaliated, and Hemmings headed a fine forward rush, but Nudds was equal to the occasion and found touch at half-way. The Gloucester threes got going in splendid style, and Thompson looked a certain scorer, but Nudds got across just in time and bowled him into touch. The game was being contested at a great pace, and a few minutes later Bath were nearly in, but faulty passing spoiled a pretty movement.

A series of scrums in mid-field followed, neither side being able to get away, and then Scott broke through and got within a yard of the line before Thomas got to him. Nudds raised the crowd to enthusiasm with a delightful breakaway, but the defence was too sound, and a scrum five yards out resulted. The Gloucester forwards took this through, and Hemmings again headed a fine rush. Millington secured, but was hemmed in, and attempted a drop, but it was wide. Gloucester attacked, Millington being prominent, but Partridge made no mistake with his tackle and touch resulted.

Craddock eased matters for Bath with a lovely punt to touch, but Gloucester still pressed, and Slade was being severely tested. He proved equal, however, and with the Bath threes passing in their own 25 the home side broke clear.

The Bath forwards were now on top of their form and combining well. They dribbled through to within five yards of the line, but Thomas went down to the ball in style, and found touch at mid-field. Brilliant handling by the Gloucester backs nearly resulted in a score a minute later.

The crowd cheered Brown to the echo for a beautiful run. Flint[sic] got him, however, and from the resulting scrum the Bath backs by fine passing got to within a yard of the line. Gibbs passed out to Nudds, and the latter dribbled over, but touch in goal resulted. Just on half-time Gloucester attacked hotly, and Flint[sic] was forced to touch down.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER Nil
BATH Nil

Within a few minutes of the restart Bath were attacking hotly. Scott was prominent with a magnificent run on the right, but McIlwaine came to the rescue. Chard marked at half-way, and a fine kick found touch near the visitors' line, but the Gloucester pack dribbled clear. Brinkworth was doing great work for Bath at the base of the scrum, and [the] homesters were constantly on the offensive. Scott was nearly in on the right, but made the mistake of kicking instead of trying to round Thomas, and touch near the line resulted. A score was not long in coming, however. GIBBS secured, and kicking ahead, beat Thomas in the race for possession and touched down near the corner flag. There was no conversion.

This infused new life into Gloucester, and for some minutes the Bath line was subjected to a series of attacks. Craddock and Wake, however, were doing great work in defence, and the home side eventually worked clear.

The Gloucester threes were handling splendidly, Brown and Hughes being particularly good, and again Gloucester were almost in. Thomas, with plenty of time, attempted a drop, but the distance was too great, and Flint[sic] securing found touch at half-way.

Bath were fighting hard to maintain their lead, but the City were still keeping up the pressure. Millington fed Crowther nicely, but the latter's pass to Brown was intercepted by Partridge, who got away to midfield. The Bath backs then took up the running, and a great rush headed by Craddock saw the ball over the line. Thomas, however, got to it first, and a drop-out resulted. Gloucester were penned in their own 25, and for some time could not get away.

Bath were nearly in again, Millington being forced to touch down, and from the drop-out Gibbs raced through and got to within a yard of the line. The Gloucester forwards dribbled in great style and transferred play to the other end, where Slade, who had been idle for ten minutes was called upon. His kick found touch near the 25-line, but again the Gloucester pack secured and the Bath line was nearly crossed.

Millington was feeding his threes splendidly and Crowther nearly got over as the result of a pretty movement. A knock-on spoilt things, however, and Wake headed a rush by the home pack. Excitement ran high when Hughes secured near the home 25 and cut right through the line. He seemed a certain scorer, but Nudds got to him just in time. The City were having all the game now, and twice crossed the Bath line. Slade touched down on the first occasion, and on the second the ball went dead.

RESULT :

BATH 1 try (3 points)
GLOUCESTER Nil

GLOUCESTER A v. BATH A

NARROW WIN FOR HOME TEAM IN CLOSE GAME

Following the ex-scholars match, Gloucester A fulfilled their fixture with the Bath Seconds. The opening exchanges were of an exciting nature, for after Bath had been forced to touch down behind their posts, a loose dribble by a couple of their forwards took the ball over the Gloucester line, but a five yards scrum was ordered.

Northway, the visitors' left centre was injured and had to leave the field, but although a man short Bath played the stronger game, and play was mostly in the Gloucester half. Twice Abbey brought down Thornley when the Bath wing got away, and once Hopcroft was tackled in possession, and later he was only just able to touch down in time. Loveridge made a great run on the right, and threw wide inside, but the ball went to touch, and there was no score to the interval.

Half-time :

Gloucester A Nil
Bath A Nil

Lester, the Bath outside half, who was injured (not Northway), was still an absentee when the game was resumed.

Loveridge earned applause for another clever and determined run, and then after play had hovered between the Bath line and the 25 for about ten minutes he opened the scoring with a splendid try in the corner, beating two men with his swerve in a 20 yards burst at full speed. Immediately afterwards Bartlett got over in a loose rush, but Hopcroft failed with both kicks.

Bath attacked by passing, and then the ball getting loose and being kicked over the line, Rymes touched down. The kick failing, Gloucester held a lead of three points. Even play followed to the end, but there was no further scoring, and Gloucester ran out lucky winners. A draw would have been a fairer result.

Result :

Gloucester A2 tries (6 points)
Bath A 1 try (3 points)

Lester was removed to the Infirmary by the City Ambulance. It was learned he was suffering from concussion.