

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1926

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM

TOWN'S MERITED VICTORY OVER THE CITY

TRIGGS-HERBERT BREAKS COLLAR BONE

With only half the regular side available – five players were assisting the County, and Tom Voyce and M. Short were also absentees – Gloucester had a stiff task on in meeting Cheltenham on the Athletic Ground, and the result was regarded as an open one. Cheltenham fielded the side which defeated Tredegar. Gloucester made another forward change, Danks taking the place of Owner, who was on the sick list. A large contingent of Gloucester supporters made the journey, and there was a crowd of 3,000 at the start.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Thomas.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. N. Loveridge (capt.), Roy James, J. Stephens, and L. Abbey.

HALF-BACKS : E. Goodwin and E. Stephens.

FORWARDS : H. Roberts, G. Foulkes, A. Danks, E. Triggs-Herbert, G. R. Shaw, J. Hemming, L. Bartlett, and H. Pitt.

CHELTENHAM

BACK : W. Watson.

THREE-QUARTERS: W. Hart, R. Riley, E. Moore, and H. Goring.

HALF-BACKS : B. S. Bloodworth and R. Stovold.

FORWARDS : W. Preece, T. Harry, R. Worgan, F. Fletcher, J. Hobbs, A. Coulston, D. Stayte, and V. Statham.

Referee : Mr. F. G. Stephens (Moseley).

THE GAME

Cheltenham kicked off, Gloucester defending the Fairview end. A scrum was formed in the City territory, and the ball coming out to Goodwin he got it away to the backs, and quickly the game was returned into the home quarters. Here Goodwin again set the backs in motion, and Loveridge put in a smart run, but Hart and Worgan between them brought him down.

The home forwards now took a turn and were not checked until they reached the Gloucester 25. Here Stovold got the ball from the scrum, but Bloodworth failed to take an upward pass, and the City forwards were up before Riley could get to it. Stovold again beat Goodwin at the base, and Hart recovered ground with a touchfinder.

In the succeeding scrum Goodwin was successful in getting the ball away, and it travelled across to Loveridge, who ran strongly until he was pushed into touch by Hart. The latter gained ground from a mark, and a forward rush took the home team to the City 25, where the visitors were penalised. Hart's kick for the points went a few inches wide.

Still pressing the Cheltenham backs brought off a good round of passing, till a forward throw to Fletcher, who went over the line, spoiled the movement. A fierce struggle ensued in neutral territory, the forward rushes by Cheltenham being generally nullified by lengthy kicks by Roy James, Abbey, and J. Stephens. The Town, however, were not to be denied, and Bloodworth, having received in the loose, he sent on to Riley to pass to Moore. The latter transferred to GORING, who got in for a try, which Hart could not improve upon.

The game had not been a couple of minutes older before Gloucester equalised. A round of passing was started in the home half and ground was gained by all who handled, particularly by Roy James, who gave to LOVERIDGE in the nick of time. The City acting captain got past Hart to score in the corner. James took the kick, but could not add the points.

At this stage Triggs-Herbert went off owing to an injury to his collar-bone. Gloucester, though one short, set up a stout attack, and E. Stephens only narrowly missed a score with a drop kick.

The ball now came to HART, who was making tracks when E. Stephens came across and pushed him into touch. The left wing man, however, was determined to do something effective, and touching the ball on the bounce from a visitors' kick he raced over the line in the corner for another try. He failed with the place kick.

HALF-TIME :

CHELTENHAM 2 tries
GLOUCESTER 1 try

Cheltenham deserved their lead at the interval, though there was not much to choose between the sides. On resuming Gloucester went off with a dash, but were checked, and then the home forwards rushed matters to the other end, where fumbling by the backs spoilt a good chance.

The game was still being fought out chiefly by the forwards when Bloodworth received and cut out a nice opening for Moore, who passed to Goring. The latter made a lot of ground before handing to V. Statham, who was held up on the line by J. Stephens, the effort of the latter saving a certain try.

Cheltenham were now having the best of the game, for though the passing of the backs was none too sure, the footwork of the forwards was most effective. It was the finish to one of their rushes that took PREECE over the line for a try which Hart converted, thus placing the home side eight points ahead of their opponents.

The visitors now tried rushing tactics and got down to the home line, where Cheltenham were penalised. James took the kick, but failed. Abbey now got away and looked like scoring when Goring brought him down from behind. Back play went again to the Gloucester end, where the ball was sent to Goring, who rounded Abbey but could not get past Thomas.

Then the visitors were penalised for off-side play by Goodwin, and HART kicked a magnificent goal. Thomas, however, was not so successful with a similar chance he had for an infringement by Stovold.

Another misfortune now befel Gloucester, Loveridge being taken off the field with an injury to his eye. Hemming took his place on the right wing for the short remaining time of play. This was continued in semi-darkness, when Goring was conspicuous for a run, before he was floored by Abbey, and then for returning the compliment by putting Abbey down just as he was getting away.

Gloucester struggled hard to reduce the margin against them, but without success, and Cheltenham thus won with eleven points to the good.

RESULT :

CHELTENHAM ...	2 goals (1p)	2 tries (14 points)
GLOUCESTER		1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

Cheltenham achieved the height of their ambition by defeating Gloucester and by defeating the City men well. On the run of the play Cheltenham deserved their victory. The forwards laid the foundation of victory by their grand rushes, but not alone in this department were the home team superior to their rivals. Stovold had the advantage over Goodwin in spite of the latter's tendency to get off-side, and when the ball came among the home three-quarters they did more with it than the visiting quartette could when it came to them.

Loveridge was the star of the Gloucester pack, with Roy James a good second. Hart and Goring were on top of their form and played the game of their lives. The City were very unfortunate to lose the services of Triggs-Herbert in the first half, his injury being a broken collar-bone. The enforced retirement of Loveridge, who had a nasty cut over the eye, and was taken to the Hospital, was also a regrettable incident, though the end was too near for the result to be affected by his absence.

GLOUCESTER A v. LYDNEY A

CITY SECONDS WELL-DESERVED WINNERS IN FAST GAME

Lydney A brought an excellent record to Kingsholm to-day, having played nine matches, won eight, and lost one – to West End away. They were strongly represented, although two changes had to be made in the selected side, B. Downing replacing F. Richards on the right wing, and Applin coming into the pack for Read. Gloucester A made four changes, R. German coming in at left centre, and R. Holford, A. Webb, and F. Hawkins (West End) replacing A. Danks, R. Comley, and F. Russell forward.

The forwards took the game in hand to start with, and after each half had been visited in turn L. Franklin broke away at the Lydney 25, and showing good pace ran through the defence to touch down near the posts, when tackled by half a dozen opponents. Boughton converted, and Gloucester A were five points up after ten minutes.

A splendid passing movement was brought off by the City backs immediately afterwards. It was initiated by Townsend, the full-back, who fielded at the ten yards line, and the ball went right across the line to Crowther, who was pulled down in the corner after a strong burst.

Play was fast and even until the interval, but neither side displayed any great finishing powers, and there was no further scoring.

Half-time :

Gloucester A 1 goal

Lydney A Nil

Lydney A re-started strongly, but after a quarter of an hour Gloucester A went ahead with an unconverted try by Robins, following their first attack of the half. The score was the outcome of the City backs' second real combined effort of the afternoon. It was begun by Clutterbuck, and carried on by Boughton and German, the latter making the opening for his wing.

Gloucester A had soon increased their lead to 11 points, for Meadows cut through and passed to Crowther, who had a clear run in. Boughton's kick from a difficult angle grazed the far post.

There was now only about ten minutes to go, and the visitors attacked desperately. They were quickly rewarded with a try by Porter, which was converted by W. Thomas. After this, however, their line was subjected to severe pressure, and the end came with Gloucester A attacking, and well-deserved winners.

Result :

Gloucester A ... 1 goal 2 tries (11 points)
Lydney A 1 goal (5 points)