

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1950

GLOUCESTER WIN HARD BATTLE

CLOSE FIGHT AT KINGSHOLM

Birkenhead Park, a West Cheshire club who have been holding their own against the leading Northern Rugby teams this season, paid their first visit to Kingsholm to-day. Neither the visitors nor Gloucester were at full strength, Birkenhead Park in particular being badly hit by County calls.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER: R. Halls; C. Crabtree, M. Baker, S. J. Troughton, E. Turner; R. Sutton, Vivian Davies; T. Day (capt.), R. Chamberlayne, R. Parry, J. Watkins, I. Ryder, D. Ibbotson, R. Hodge, G. Hastings.

BIRKENHEAD PARK: P. Darnborough; D. Rippard, G. Haynes, J. M. Nestor, O. Teggin; R. Southern, F. A. Kelly; J. D. Robins, K. M. McDonald, A. W. Halligan, K. W. R. Carr, D. Hosker, D. H. Pain, G. A. Wilson, H. W. Simpson (capt.).

Referee: Mr. A. M. Rees (London Society).

Just after the kick off the referee called to a halt while the Birkenhead Park team who were wearing similar coloured jerseys to Glo'ster, changed into white.

In the early stages of the game the Birkenhead threequarters tried to open up with quick passing movements, but dropped passes and close Glo'ster marking lost them opportunities.

There was a nasty moment for Glo'ster when Sutton failed to take a difficult pass sent out from the scrum by Vivian Davies, but Halls gathered on his own 25 in the face of a strong Birkenhead rush. Territorially Birkenhead were having the better of the initial exchanges, and on one occasion their right centre J. M. Nestor almost got clear.

Gloucester rallied and when Crabtree kicked ahead inside the visitors' 25 with Ibbotson in full cry after the ball, Nestor gathered and cleared safely.

Soon after this Birkenhead took the lead. Their threequarters produced a good passing movement, and their right winger, Teggin, passed outside for NESTER to score an unconverted try wide out.

Gloucester now began to have more of the play, and Crabtree, after a dash to within a few yards of the Birkenhead line, tried unsuccessfully to pass out to Hastings.

Gloucester continued to subject the Birkenhead line to severe pressure, and when the ball was punted across the field it bounced nicely for TURNER to gather and score an unconverted try, wide out.

Gloucester were now more than holding their own, and strong pressure by the forwards enabled TOM DAY to put them ahead with an unconverted try.

Shortly afterwards Ibbotson touched down behind the Birkenhead line after a fine Gloucester passing movement in which threequarters and forwards took part, but a try was disallowed, the referee ruling that one of the passes had been forward.

Late in the half Gloucester's left wing Turner had to go off hurt and Hastings was brought out onto the wing.

HALF-TIME :

GLO'STER 2 tries (6 pts.)
BIRKENHEAD PARK1 try (3 pts.)

Turner returned after the interval. Fog was now forming over the ground making visibility difficult.

Gloucester were soon attacking again and Turner tried to dash through on the left but was grassed a few yards from the Birkenhead line.

Soon afterwards Sutton sent Baker away inside the visitors' half and the centre broke through and beat several defenders before the movement broke down.

Gloucester went further ahead when BAKER kicked a nice penalty goal from a fairly difficult angle.

Birkenhead still found themselves unable to break out of their own half but the visitors' full back P. Darnborough was playing a steady game in the face of Gloucester's continued pressure.

Gloucester were now heeling from the majority of scrums and Baker and Troughton were prominent in another Gloucester threequarter movement which penetrated well inside the Birkenhead 25.

Birkenhead renewed their attack and WILSON reduced the arrears with a penalty goal.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 1 gl. (p) 2 tries (9 pts.)
BIRKENHEAD PARK 1 gl. (p) 1 try (6 pts.)