

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1914

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. BATH

A SPLENDID WIND-UP

SOMERSET CLUB BEATEN BY SEVEN POINTS

Gloucester engaged in their last match of the season to-day, when the team appeared at Bath for the return game.

When the teams met at Kingsholm, Gloucester, with eleven reserves playing owing to a county match being on the same day, won handsomely by 2 goals 3 tries (19 points) to nil, but though a much stronger side on paper represented the City to-day, a closer contest was fully expected.

Bath had been doing exceptionally well during the holidays, successive victories being obtained over Cheltenham, Coventry and Leicester, and the Somerset men were anxious to add Gloucester to the list, especially as they had never triumphed over their powerful rivals.

Gloucester were short of Smart and Parham forward; otherwise the team was the same as defeated Cinderford on Easter Monday.

Bath suffered a last moment disappointment. Whittaker sprained his ankle while working on Friday, and Shewring went full back in his place, Hope going centre with Pratt on the wing.

GLOUCESTER	POSITIONS	BATH
C. Cook	Backs.	H. E. Shewring
F. Webb	Three-Quarter	V. Coates
R. A. Clarke	Backs	N. Coates
L. Hamblin	"	P. P. Hope (capt.)
W. Washbourn	"	A. Hatherhill
W. Dix	Half-Backs	- . Pratt
A. Hall	"	H. Vowles
G. Halford (capt.)	Forwards	S. Head
N. Hayes	"	F. Cashnella
S. Millard	"	W. Warde
J. F. Lawson	"	F. Froude
A. Saunders	"	W. H. Royal
F. Ayliffe	"	E. Russell
C. Mumford	"	D. Fisher
W. Dovey	"	G. C. Powell

THE GAME

Cashnella missed Gloucester's starting kick, and the first scrum was seen on the Bath 25 line. Bath heeled out, but Hatherhill missed Vowles' pass, and Cook gathering Hope's kick, found touch in the Bath quarter. Bath were penalised, and Gloucester put in a high punt, but knocked on and were pulled up. Bath again heeled well, but Webb sprang a surprise on Bath, who were passing in their own 25, for he intercepted and scored. Hamblin goaled.

Bath attacked after this reverse, Vincent Coates running well, but he was stopped in the Gloucester 25. Bath being given a free, Shewring just missed goal. Gloucester got the ball from the scrum, but their passing was not quick enough to enable the three-quarters to break through.

Cook, by his fine touch-finding, put Gloucester on the attack, but Bath opened out nicely and the ball went to V. Coates, who brought off a splendid run. When confronted by Cook he re-passed to Norman Coates, but his brother was tackled as soon as he received.

Shewring getting the better of tall punting put his side on the attack, but Gloucester got the leather out nicely. However, the movement gained little ground, Washbourn punting on when he received.

Millard did splendid work for Gloucester by taking the ball from a line-out on the visitors' goal line. Hope missed a chance for Bath by misfielding a catch, but the home forwards attacked hotly.

Hamblin knocked on badly when Gloucester had the ball out among their threes, and Clarke was penalised for fouling N. Coates, but the free kick did not profit Bath.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 goal
Bath Nil

Bath had the advantage of the wind on resuming, and Shewring at once utilised this, finding touch at the Gloucester quarter flag. Hope dashed for the ball and got through, but lost the leather on the Gloucester line, and the visitors saved. The Brothers Coates made a powerful effort on the right. Webb held Vincent by the arm, but he got the leather back to Norman, who was pulled up in the Gloucester 25.

Bath were having much the better of the game, keeping play in the Gloucester quarter, but could not score. Norman Coates missed a penalty goal by a few feet. Hope made a splendid effort to dash through; he beat three men but Cook just stopped him. Norman Coates missed a dropped goal by inches.

Bath were having the better of the game, but nothing would come their way. Webb stuck to Vincent Coates pluckily when that player tried to hand him off, being temporarily laid out in the tackle. Shewring landed a penalty goal for Bath with a splendid drop kick, and with the home side two points only behind, Bath made a great effort.

Shewring joined the three-quarter line, but this left the home line undefended, and the mistake was demonstrated when Royal and Vowles muddling a catch between them in the Bath half allowed Ayliffe to take the leather, Ayliffe crossing without challenge and Cook converting.

A few minutes remained for play, and Gloucester staved off a hot attack.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 goals (10 points)

Bath 1 goal (p) (3 points)

REMARKS

Our Bath correspondent telegraphs :

Gloucester deserved victory for their greater opportunist abilities. Webb's try was a smart demonstration of the danger of passing in one's own 25, while Ayliffe was clever in robbing two Bathonians of the ball. Cook's touch-finding was immense, and his place-kicks grand.

Bath were unlucky in missing many near things, their backs not playing together so well as usual. Whittaker was missed, the disorganisation of the third line being a handicap.

The forwards were well matched.