

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1919

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. BRISTOL

GLOUCESTRIANS GAIN FINE TRIUMPH

SPLENDID FORWARD PLAY

W. STONE THE PICK OF A GOOD SET OF BACKS

Gloucester were engaged in their first away match to-day, when the team opposed Bristol in the latter's new ground.

With successive victories over Bridgwater, Cardiff (a decisive win), and Bath, the Bristol side had proved their ability this season, and the outcome of this afternoon's struggle between the contending teams elicited keen interest in the respective camps, with the ultimate result a very open affair.

The original Gloucester team differed in several instances from the combination which defeated Cheltenham, but last evening changes had again to be made.

S. A. Brown, who badly sprained the muscles of his thigh the previous week, had hoped to get fit, but he was disappointed, and reluctantly had to cry off; whilst the injured shoulder prevented Davis taking his place in the forwards. This necessitated a shuffling of the team.

A. Hall (who had been selected for the pack) resumed his old position at outside half; Lionel Hamblin played centre three-quarter vice Hudson, and the old International figured on the wing.

GLOUCESTER :

BACK : T. Stone.

THREE-QUARTERS : F. Webb, W. Stone, A. Hudson, and L. Hamblin.

HALF-BACKS : W. Dix and A. Hall.

FORWARDS : G. Holford (capt.), F. W. Ayliffe, A. Goodman, A. Ward, J. Harris, A. Robbins, Davis, and Voyce.

BRISTOL :

BACK : T. Bateman.

THREE-QUARTERS : M. A. James, L. J. Corbett, R. C. W. Pickles, and T. Spoors.

HALF-BACKS : W. J. Wring and S. H. Budd.

FORWARDS : M. Shaw, C. Shaw, R. Meyer, J. S. Tucker, P. J. Williams, W. West, S. H. Carey, and W. J. Smith.

Referee : Mr. J. Southby.

THE GAME

There were eleventh hour changes in the Gloucester team. Hayes and Lawson dropped out, and Davis, who was not expected to play owing to an injured shoulder, and Voyce filled the vacancies.

The weather was fine, and there was a capital attendance. Bristol led off, and the first item of note was a fine rush by the Gloucester forwards, who followed up and upset James before he could get in his kick. A useful kick by a home player sent to T. Stone, who slipped and was collared close in. A penalty relieved, but Pickles ran back nicely, and Gloucester were in danger. A fine round of passing saw James tackled just outside.

Gloucester replied with a brilliant passing run, and the movement was not checked till the Bristol quarter was reached. Gloucester lost the advantage through T. Stone fumbling, but Hall retrieved finely, and later Dix and Webb put play in the home half.

A penalty against Holford negated his work, and then from a kick over the line Gloucester touched down. Subsequent play was even until W. Stone with a splendid touch-finder sent well inside the Bristol quarter. Forward bursts by the home forwards changed the venue, Webb checking with overhead kicking. A big dash by the halves was well backed up by the Gloucester front, who were not stopped until the quarter line was reached, Dix smartly serving Hall, who with a great effort nearly reached the line, when he passed, and the ball was dropped – a lucky escape for Bristol.

Gloucester were playing splendidly up the stiff gradient, but a long kick by James eased the pressure for Bristol. Hudson led a capital dribble to the centre, and then W. Stone brought off a beautiful run, and passed, but the transfer was intercepted. Hamblin, however, followed the kick and took a drop for goal, but the ball fell short. More big punting enabled Bristol to clear, and midfield play followed.

Gloucester, however, took up the attack again strongly, but the defence was too keen. The visitors continued pressing, and after a clever effort by W. Stone, Dix scored smartly and Hamblin converted. This score came as a result of capital combination, Dix showing opportunism in backing up Stone.

Bristol restarted, and for a couple of minutes held their opponents, but Hall, who was playing a great game, checked the forwards beautifully.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 goal
Bristol	Nil

Holford restarted downhill, and the Gloucester forwards at once got in a fine rush, but off-side spoiled it, and a penalty followed. Bristol benefited little with the resultant kick, and the visitors were soon back in the left-hand corner. A missed pass by Hall from Dix allowed Bristol to dribble clear, but Hamblin gathered and found touch. A splendid rush by the Bristol forwards saw T. Stone at fault in fielding, but Hamblin got back and cleared.

So far this half the backs had not seen much of the ball, Bristol keeping it as close as possible. Gloucester gradually worked down to their favourite corner, where Hamblin had a place for goal from a penalty, but failed. Next Bristol were awarded a free, and Pickles found touch well with a good kick.

Bristol improved after this, the home team taking full advantage of a mistake by T. Stone. Pickles and Corbett with half an opening nearly beat the defence, but the situation was saved. Davis was prominent in gaining a large slice of ground for Gloucester, and Bateman in dropping on the ball was injured and carried off. Resuming, Gloucester early set up an attack from a cross-kick by Webb. There was a splendid chance, but a knock-on occurred on the line. Then Stone essayed a drop at goal, but failed badly.

Gloucester continued to have bad luck, for Spoor getting a kick charged down, there was an open goal, but the ball bounced right away for a visitor, and a subsequent knock-on spoiled any chance of scoring. Despite being a man short in the pack, Bristol were playing a determined game, and Gloucester could not find the desired opening.

Well-judged kicking to touch gave Bristol a footing in the Gloucester end for the first time this half, but Hall and Hamblin, working the short side of the scrum, came away beautifully to the centre. The forwards continued but kicked too hard, and only a minor resulted.

From a mark by Davis, T. Stone had a shot for goal, but with no success. Play was confined to the Bristol 25, Gloucester pegging away. Their efforts were at length rewarded, Harris scoring in a rush and Hamblin adding the goal points.

Gloucester had now made the game safe, but tried hard to increase their lead before the end without success.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 goals (10 points)
Bristol Nil

REMARKS

Gloucester thoroughly earned their triumph, and on the play should have made more points. Rank had bad luck lost at least a couple of tries. The Gloucester forwards were in fine form all through, both in the tight and loose. Dix and Hall were splendid at the scrum, the latter performing prodigies. All the three-quarters did well, with W. Stone the shining light. T. Stone was at fault occasionally, but the lie of the ground handicapped the players, and the ball at times played funny tricks.

GLOUCESTER A v. ST. MARK'S

HOME TEAM WIN EXCITING STRUGGLE

A good deal of local interest was centred in the meeting of these teams at Kingsholm. St. Mark's had got together a good side, and were pretty sanguine of their ability to defeat the Seconds.

Teams :

Gloucester A. – W. Nelmes; F. E. M. Clarke, F. Bloxsome (capt.), T. Millington, and H. Ashmead; J. Humphries and N. Daniell; J. F. Lawson, F. Mansell, J. H. Webb, A. Merrett, W. Wright, W. Comley, P. Aas, and A. Hawker.

St. Mark's. – J. Ible; J. Phelps (capt.), F. W. Hayward, F. Ashmead, and W. Burford; H. Griffiths and T. Cole; C. Mumford, G. Westbury, J. Westbury, A. Mann, S. Bayliss, H. Jones, J. Griffiths, and T. Bridges.

Referee : Mr. E. Rate.

Gloucester set the ball in motion, and were quickly in the St. Mark's quarter, and it looked as though a try would result, but the home team were hardly quick enough, and a minor was conceded.

St. Mark's got going, and after a keen struggle at mid-field they secured a mark and an attempt was made to goal, but without success. Another similar attempt failed, but the visitors continued their pressure until mishandling by their three-quarters let Gloucester into their quarter. After a scramble the ball was kicked over the line, and Clarke dashing forward scored, Nelmes converting with a nice kick.

A likely forward movement by St. Mark's was spoilt by a forward pass, but the visitors opened their account a moment later, Hayward goaling from a penalty in a good position. The visitors continued their pressure, and a loose rush was taken advantage of, Burford touching down in a good position. Hayward failed with the kick.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

St. Mark's 1 goal (p), 1 try
Gloucester A 1 goal

On the resumption Gloucester carried the play into the visitors' 25, and after a few moments' pressure the ball went over in the corner and Humphries scored, but Nelmes made a poor attempt to convert.

Gloucester were not having it all their own way, however, for good kicking by the visiting backs took the game very near to the home line. A passing movement in the centre failed in consequence of one of the home men hanging on a bit too long, but this resulted in some exciting play in the visitors' 25, and several promising dashes only just failed to materialise.

Gloucester were now opening out the game, and the visitors had an anxious time. They gradually worked out of their difficulty, and a fine kick for them from a penalty only failed by striking the cross-bar. Working back again into the visitors' quarter, Gloucester severely tested the Saints' defence, but were unable to break through.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)
St. Mark's... 1 goal (p), 1 try (6 points)

COMMENTS

As was anticipated, the visitors put up a good fight, and a keen and interesting game resulted.

Gloucester were too good for them, however, and it was only due to the stout defence put up by the St. Mark's backs that the margin was not larger.

Throughout the game the Gloucester forwards had the best of the scrum work, and their three-quarters once or twice opened up well, but they had not enough dash to make the best of their chances. The home team was the stronger combination, but they had some difficulty in securing their victory.

JC