

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1919

FOOTBALL

CHELTENHAM OUTPLAYED AT KINGSHOLM

GLOUCESTER PILE UP POINTS

BRILLIANT PLAY BY THE CITY BACKS

For the second meeting of the season with Cheltenham at Kingsholm, Gloucester had a weakened forward division, for in addition to Holford, Smart and Voyce engaged at Liverpool, Harris and Ward were still unfit to take their places in the City ranks. Consequently there was a big call on the reserves, five of whom were drafted into the side. The back division fortunately was intact, and it was generally regarded that Gloucester were strong enough to record another win over their neighbours.

The following were the teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : J. Vedmore.

THREE-QUARTERS : F. Webb, A. Hudson, A. Lewis, and W. Washbourn.

HALF-BACKS : W. Dix and L. Hamblin.

FORWARDS : A. Hall, F. W. Ayliffe, J. F. Lawson, J. H. Webb, F. Mansell, A. Comeley, N. Hayes, and C. Mumford.

CHELTENHAM

BACK : B. Davy.

THREE-QUARTERS : W. Watson, H. Hughes, W. G. Lane, and C. S. Statham.

HALF-BACKS : A. Bendall and J. Bendall.

FORWARDS : H. Wixey, F. Taylor, W. Burford, H. T. Stephens, J. Cocks, F. Jackett, B. Dimond, and F. Dodwell.

Referee : Mr. Austin Lewis (Lydney).

THE GAME

The sun shone brilliantly at the time fixed for the kick-off, but rain threatened and there was a nasty wind blowing. The attendance was only moderate at the start for a First-team match. Cheltenham had one change from the team which beat Penylan – Dodwell (forward) for Jackson.

Cheltenham started the game, and Hayes knocking on in receiving a scrum was ordered in the home half. The City forwards heeled early, and Dix started a nice bout of passing, which ended in Washbourn racing down to Davy before being upset. There was no one to pass to, and the ball getting loose, A. Bendall kicked to touch at the centre.

Gloucester gained a few yards with a forward rush, but A. Bendall, with useful kicks, sent to near the Gloucester quarter. Here Gloucester got the ball out, and a brilliant bout of passing and inter-passing followed, ending in Webb being pushed out of play a few yards from the line.

Gloucester got in another attack immediately after, but Washbourn was tackled well when getting dangerous. Carrying a scrum, the Gloucester forwards rushed over the visitors' line, and Davy conceded a minor.

Cheltenham dropped out, and Dix, by clever play, set his backs in motion. Webb received and made a fine run and attempt to score, being just legged in time by Davy. Gloucester continued to keep play open, and Dix was repeatedly prominent with tricky play. Once he beat both Cheltenham halves very cleverly and side-stepped Statham, but when in the act of falling over the line he was held up.

By dint of loose forward work and close tackling Cheltenham brought about much needed pressure, but Hudson eventually checked. The City came away again smartly with some passing, but a forward transfer spoiled a certain try.

The Cheltenham forwards were playing well in the loose, but as a team they were well beaten in general play. The City, with clever all-round work [1, 2 words unreadable] a good attacking position, but Wixey snapped up a pass from Dix and sent to Hughes, who had a fine opening for a run; but the Town wing man preferred to kick, and the movement was checked.

Commanding the ball in the scrums, the Gloucester forwards continued to heel well, and the backs indulged in some clever handling. Webb, being hemmed in on one occasion, cross-kicked, but Lane received and touched down. He had, however, gone back from the field of play, and a scrum was ordered five yards out. From this point Dix got the ball out well, and serving Alec Lewis nicely, the centre burst through and scored the first try. Hamblin missed the goal points.

Resuming, Gloucester continued to overpower their opponents. From a kick in the open Hudson gathered, and bursting through in fine style reached Davy, when he passed to Washbourn, who scored a pretty try. Hamblin landed a neat goal.

Webb returned finely to the re-start, the ball going to touch at the Cheltenham 25. Bursting away from a scrum, the City forwards dribbled right down to Davy, who saved on the line. Dix got the ball away from the subsequent scrum, but Hamblin held on too long and was tackled. A flying kick by a Cheltonian sent the ball across to the left. Washbourn raced for possession, but could not gather with a possible chance of scoring.

Cheltenham, with loose dribbling, gained a position in the home territory, and A. Bendall, with a fruitless drop at goal, forced a minor. The kick-out was fumbled by Davy in his own quarter, and Gloucester gained a nice position. From a long throw-out Dix picked up and passed to Lewis, who served Webb nicely. Getting well away, the City wing raced hard for the line, and beating Davy scored a fine try. Hamblin failed at the place-kick.

Cheltenham played up pluckily on the resumption, but Hall stopped them and put in a strong run. The passing, however, went astray, and the Town forwards carried play to Vedmore. The latter's kick was charged down, and the visitors dribbled to near the home 25.

From a scrummage Cheltenham got the ball out, and Statham and Hughes showing pretty inter-passing, the former went through and over the line amidst applause. Davy failed with the kick at goal. Soon after the re-start the interval was sounded.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 goal, 2 tries
Cheltenham 1 try

Hayes restarted for Gloucester, and an exchange of kicks ended in Davy finding touch at the centre. A useful forward rush by the Town front tested Vedmore, but the Whitecroft man came through successfully. He again did well a couple of minutes later, getting in a nice relief kick under pressure.

In their own 25 Gloucester heeled, and the backs passing smartly Washbourn got off nicely, but a repass to Hudson went astray. Cheltenham responded with great effort, but Lane punted instead of serving Watson. The wind, however, carried the ball to the Gloucester line, where Vedmore could only get in a short punt to touch. Cheltenham tried hard to pierce the defence, but were not rewarded.

Then came a remarkable try – one of the finest efforts seen on the ground. Gloucester opened out a few yards from their line, and the ball was got out nicely to Washbourn. Running hard the Gloucesterian got clear of his opponents and reached Davy, when he transferred inside to Ayliffe. The City forward was closely pressed from behind, but he kept his lead, and finished up by scoring between the posts amidst great cheering. Hamblin failed at the easy place. Hardly had the enthusiasm died down when there was another great effort, and a second try for Ayliffe. Hudson made a particularly fine burst and got through to Davy, when he transferred to Ayliffe for the latter to run over nicely. Vedmore took the place this time, but was unsuccessful.

This rapid scoring was greatly to the delight of the crowd, but there was more to come. Lewis was prominent with a nice run through, but Hudson was so eager that he got in his way, and the centre was knocked over when there was a splendid opening. Hudson, however, made amends a minute later. Receiving the ball at the centre the old International burst clean through, scarcely a player touching him. Having made a perfect opening, he finally yielded to Lawson, who completed the movement by scoring wide out. Vedmore failed at goal.

The Cheltenham players were completely nonplussed by the pace and tactics of the home men. Big kicking gave them slight relief, but Gloucester could not be held. Hudson went off for a few minutes, and during his absence Gloucester added to their lead. Hall had come out from the scrum, and being served by Dix he made a strong run. Subsequent passing left the ball with Ayliffe, who went over the line with his third try. Hamblin essayed the kick at goal, but with no success.

Cheltenham played up better after this, and by loose rushing and kicking secured a position near the home line, but a series of exchanges by the Gloucester backs changed the venue. Hudson was again conspicuous with a strong run, and Hamblin also came into the picture, but had the ill-luck to fall when cutting inside. Gloucester had another brilliant round of passing from well inside their quarter, but though Hudson and Webb inter-passed cleverly, the final transfer was not accepted with Davy beaten.

Shortly afterwards Davy, fielding a kick in the open, made a clever run, gaining some 30 yards, but his transfer was not accepted. The game was made delightfully open by Gloucester, and there was another sweet effort by Hamblin, followed by passing and interpassing, but with a clear run in the last pass went astray. It mattered little, however, for Dix, who was playing a wonderfully clever game, shot the ball out to Lewis, who ran straight through and scored near the posts. Dix was given the place, and amidst loud cheering he successfully negotiated the cross-bar.

There were only a few minutes left for play, but Gloucester were rewarded with another try. Cheltenham had worked down to near the home goal, when Dix opened out beautifully. Hudson received from Hamblin, and with a great effort cleared the opposition except Davy, when a well-judged pass placed Washbourn in possession. The rest was easy, the wing man having an unopposed run behind the posts. Dix completed the extra points, and the final whistle went with Cheltenham a well beaten side.

RESULT :

Gloucester3 goals, 6 tries (33 points)
Cheltenham 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

From a spectator's point of view to-day's match was easily the best and most entertaining seen at Kingsholm this season. The scoring at once indicates the immense superiority of Gloucester in all the finer points of the game. Cheltenham tried their hardest and best – the forwards did especially good work in the loose – but as a side they were hopelessly outclassed in speed, cleverness, combination, and resource.

The score of 31 points to 3 in no way exaggerates the City's advantage. It began in the scrums – where the home forwards heeled with delightful consistency – and the variety of tactics employed by the Gloucesters backs proved altogether too much for the visitors.

All the nine tries recorded by Gloucester were thoroughly deserved – the majority the result of perfect understanding and clever combined efforts. The Gloucester players were out to-day to give the ball plenty of air, and from the start it was seen that the machinery was in proper working order.

Three times the Cheltenham defence was pierced in the first half, but there were numerous other occasions when brilliant efforts only just failed in successful development. The Town were indeed fortunate in being only eight points in arrears at the interval.

With the wind in the second half Cheltenham were expected to do better, and for a few minutes the visitors certainly flattered their supporters. But the City were quick to get going, and it was remarkable the number of tries scored from movements initiated from near the line. Once – on the occasion of Ayliffe's first try – the whole length of the field was traversed, a rare occurrence at Kingsholm.

The feature of the game was the brilliant display of the City backs. Dix and Hamblin at half were irresistible, the former getting the ball away with remarkable quickness and accuracy, and occasionally performing solo efforts which greatly pleased the crowd; whilst Hamblin took all sorts of passes and served his threes in perfect style.

The third line was in happy mood, and the spectators were afforded a real treat. Hudson and Lewis were splendid in the centre, showing judgment in passing and now and again going through on their own very effectively. The wings – Webb and Washbourn – fitted in admirably, and gave the Town defenders a very lively afternoon. Altogether it was Gloucester's day out with a vengeance.

Vedmore gave a very creditable show on his first appearance with the team. That he has pluck was evidenced by the way he went down to check visiting forward rushes, and his catching and gathering were excellent. He can be safely given a further trial if available.

The forwards are to be complimented on a sound display. It was a test for the reserves, but except in loose rushes they more than held their own. Hall gave the pack a splendid lead, and he was instrumental in starting more than one attacking movement. Ayliffe was a hard worker and clever in the open, and his three tries is sufficient testimony to his keen following up and ever-ready ability to take advantage of openings. Webb, Mumford, and Mansell also came under special notice.

For Cheltenham, Stephens was easily the best forward on the side; he was clever with his feet and generally in the van when the Town forwards broke away. The Brothers Bendall were up against too clever a pair at half-back, but now and again they rendered useful service.

The three-quarters were out-shone as a line. The solitary try obtained by Statham was prettily worked out, but there were times when the players showed a lack of confidence and seemed afraid to let themselves go. Hughes was an offender in this respect, and missed one splendid chance in the first part of the game.

Davy was a trifle uneven, but on the whole was Cheltenham's soundest exponent.

GLOUCESTER A v. TREDWORTH

A KEEN SCRAMBLE

Gloucester A visited Saintbridge Recreation Ground on Saturday afternoon to meet Tredworth. There was a comparatively large and enthusiastic crowd. Gloucester, winning the toss and playing downhill with a strong wind behind, carried the game to the Tredworth 25, but failed to take advantage of their proximity to the home line.

Then Tredworth by good heeling and touch finding worked up and became dangerous in the corner. A kick out transferred the venue of play, and scrambling play resulted in the home field[*sic*] in the course of which Essex opened the Gloucester account with a try, the kick failing.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A	1 try
Tredworth	Nil

On the resumption play favoured the home team, who put up a keen attack, and gave the Gloucester backs an anxious time.

In the course of a bout of open play, the ball came to Allen, who was playing on the right wing, and he cleverly evaded a couple of the visitors and dropped a fine goal, thus putting his side one point up.

Then Gloucester made an effort, and Bloxham went away nicely, but lost the ball, and the home backs conceded a minor. A considerable scramble ensued but in spite of several attempts by Tredworth to improve their score no further points were added.

RESULT :

Tredworth 1 goal (d) (4 points)
Gloucester A 1 try (3 points)

COMMENTS

The Recreation Ground is a poor football field at best, but with the wind blowing strongly downhill, each side in turn had an unequal chance. The game was very scrambling and there were few attempts at handling, the little there was being to the credit of the visitors.

The Tredworth pack were good, and often succeeded in getting the ball, but the best which could be said of the game was that it was a keen scramble.

Welshman played well at back for Gloucester, and Allen was smart at three-quarter for the home team.