

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 1920

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER SCORE WELL AT BATH

HUDSON THE STAR PERFORMER OF SPLENDID SIDE

It was very unfortunate for the Bath Club that the visit of Gloucester – one of the most attractive fixtures on the card – should have clashed with the Somerset-Devon match, as the calls of the county severely weakened the home ranks, Whittaker (full back), Hope (three-quarter), Vowles and Considine (halves), O. J. Pope and Royal all being engaged at Wellington. Gloucester were short of Holford (captain) and Smart – who were resting in view of the International at Swansea next week – and Hamblin (vice-captain), who sustained a severe kick on the shin at Leicester, which opened an old wound. A. Hall was moved from forward to outside half, and the vacancy forward was filled by A. Comley.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK: G. Welshman.

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

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

FORWARDS : F. Ayliffe, J. S. Lawson, A. Comely, N. Hayes, A. Ward, J. Harris, T. Voyce, and C. Mumford.

BATH

BACK : E. Appleby.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. Woodward, Capt. R. G. Murray, Walker, and Richardson.

HALF-BACKS : F. Russell and J. Russell.

FORWARDS : L. J. Richardson, J. Gregory, E. J. Hodges, C. Lock, C. Carruthers, G. Wilkins, W. H. Shepperd, and A. Ford.

Referee : Mr. Vowles (Bristol).

THE GAME

Heavy rain had made the ground heavy and treacherous on the top, and the wretched conditions prevailing completely spoiled the game. Walker played for Sheriff at three-quarter for Bath.

Hayes started for Gloucester, but from the first scrum Bath got the ball out, and there was a series of exchanges, ending in the ball being kicked over the City line for a minor. Following the drop-out the Gloucester forwards put in some dashing footwork, and later Washbourn showed up smartly, forcing Appleby to run back and turn the ball to touch. Passing by Gloucester broke down, and H. Richardson, picking up, ran clear to the centre before being upset by Welshman.

Centre play followed, until Dix, working the short side of the scrum, broke away and passed to Hudson, but the transfer was ruled forward. Dix repeated the performance immediately after, and making a beautiful opening sent Washbourn over with a corner try. Welshman failed at goal.

Resuming, the Gloucester backs passed neatly, but Webb failed to take from Millington. From the next scrum Hudson was put in possession by Hall. Getting straight up the field, the old International gave the "dummy" and passed to Washbourn, who when tackled re-passed to Hudson, who ran behind the posts. Dix failed with the easy place.

The Bath forwards showed up strongly after this second reverse, but Welshman checked them. Subsequent play was scrambling, the players being greatly handicapped by the state of the ball and ground. Dix twice opened out very cleverly, but the backs could not hold the ball, and Bath dribbled to the Gloucester 25. Here the forwards chiefly fought out the issue, but there were many mistakes, and there were few incidents of interest.

Clever play by Welshman eventually put Gloucester well down, but Woodward ran back splendidly to the City quarters. Gloucester twice opened out the play by Dix and Hall, but the passing broke down, and Bath benefitted, once going very close.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
GLOUCESTER 2 tries
BATH Nil

Bath, who had been playing all through short of J. Russell, injured in the first minute, restarted, and H. Richardson was early prominent with a dribble through, but Hudson saved nicely by punting to touch. Hudson, running back in trying to clear, was collared close in.

The Bath forwards were playing with good dash, and Gloucester were kept at it all the time.

Millington came into the picture with a clever individual effort, but Woodward ran back, weak tackling allowing him to gain some thirty yards. Dix, with the help of the forwards, set up a strong attack, but nothing came of it.

From a penalty against F. Russell, who was playing a wretchedly off-side game, Welshman had a drop for goal, but a good attempt missed.

Gloucester, however, continued the pressure, and Ward opening out cleverly the ball came to Hudson, who with a strong dash beat the opposition and scored a good try. The place-kick by Welshman was a failure.

Gloucester had all the better of subsequent exchanges, but Bath exercised a watchful defence and kept their lines intact.

Hudson was playing a great game, and added two more tries. Washbourn scored two, and Dix one.

RESULT :
GLOUCESTER ... 8 tries (24 points)
BATH Nil

REMARKS

Gloucester gave a splendid display in the last twenty minutes, and the Bath defence was toyed with in this period. Hudson played a great game, and he and Washbourn showed fine combination.

The Bath forwards were good in the loose, but the backs were mainly distinguished for individual efforts.

Dix exhibited rare cleverness at half-back, despite the attention of Russell, who was more often than not on the Gloucester side of the scrum.

Hall made a useful partner, but it was not until late in the game that the City combination got to work. Then there was only one side in it.

Webb got little chance, and it was unfortunate he met with a mishap just before the finish, being injured in a keen tackle when going hard for the line. Welshman gave another grand display at full back.

The forwards were severely tested at times, but came out well. Ward, Hayes, and Lawson were very energetic, especially in the open and loose footwork, and Ayliffe and Voyce were capital workers.

GLOUCESTER A v. CAINSCROSS

HALF-CENTURY POINTS COMPILED AT KINGSHOLM

The conditions were by no means favourable for this match at Kingsholm. The ground was in a very wet state, and fine rain fell during most of the afternoon.

The visitors arrived two men short, and had to rely upon local talent to fill their ranks.

The teams were :

Gloucester A. – Smith; Daniell, Brown, Ashmead, and Bloxsome; Burns and Humphries; Griffiths, Mansell, Wright, Essex, Merrett, Davis, Turner, and Curtis.

Cainscross. – J. Blanch; H. Brinkworth; F. Hill, R. Wager, and J. Mobley; J. Shipton and E. Browning; W. Bingham, H. Bowerman, H. Farmiloe, J. Parker, F. Rodway, J. Ackers, G. Westbury, and F. Nash.

Referee : Mr. G. O. Jones.

Gloucester made a good start. Getting the better of the initial exchanges, they heeled from a fine scrum near the centre, and the threes took part in an excellent bout of passing, which resulted in Daniell putting Bloxsome over with a very pretty try. The kick failed.

The home team continued to press, and a second try came by Ashmead, after another clever combined movement by the threes, set in motion by Mansell. The kick again failed.

The ball next travelled to the right wing, where Daniell would have crossed but for a forward pass. A further score was not long delayed. In the course of some loose play the oval was secured by Humphries, who scored without opposition. Burns converted.

The home team were having things all their own way, and tries continued to come with regularity. Brown, after a good run, planted the ball behind the posts, for Burns to goal, and immediately after Bloxsome scored a pretty try, and followed a minute later by adding another, neither of which was improved upon. Ashmead was the next to cross, and Bloxsome kicked a good goal. Just before half-time Cainscross visited the home 25, but without result.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 3 goals, 4 tries
Cainscross Nil

On the resumption Gloucester immediately attacked, but the Cainscross back brought relief with a good touchfinder. A series of scrums on the Cainscross line resulted in Bloxsome adding another try, which he himself converted.

The visitors put up a very feeble defence, and but for mistakes several more points would have been added within a few minutes of the resumption. The home halves and threes were participating in bouts of handling every few minutes, and in the course of one of these Humphries scored an unconverted try. He went over again a moment later, and this time Burns was successful with the kick.

Cainscross now brightened up a little, and succeeded in getting the ball back several times, but their backs were without any speed, and it was not long before Daniell improved the Gloucester score after another good run, Burns goaling. The next came as the result of a run by Bloxsome from the home 25, Burns adding the necessary points.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 7 goals 5 tries (50 points)

Cainscross Nil

REMARKS

It was quickly evident that Cainscross stood no chance against the Gloucester men, who were quite on the top of their form. Owing to the almost entire absence of defence they were, of course, able to carry out their enterprises at their leisure, but it is due to the scorers to say that most of the tries were the result of clean handling and clever head work.

The Gloucester forwards had the best of it, both in the scrums and loose, and the threes were all over their opponents. Only on two or three occasions did Cainscross penetrate to the Gloucester 25, but they never looked like scoring.