

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1920

## FOOTBALL

### GLOUCESTER'S THIRD WIN OVER CHELTENHAM

#### CITY SCORE IN EACH HALF AND BOTH TRIES CONVERTED !

The meeting of these local rivals at Cheltenham aroused the usual keen interest, and a large crowd of City supporters accompanied the team to the Garden Town. The clubs had already met twice previously this season at Kingsholm, Gloucester winning both games comfortably by 21 points to 6 and 33 points to 3 respectively.

For to-day's fixture Gloucester had a somewhat mixed side, the absentees including A. Hudson, F. Webb, W. Washbourn (three-quarters), and S. Smart, J. F. Lawson, C. Mumford, and J. Harris (forward).

Washbourn, it was stated, declined his place owing to his being asked to change over to the other wing. The three-quarter line was therefore composed of this season's recruits, and followers of the City were anxious to see how they would perform together.

Though the personnel of the Cheltenham team differed considerably from that which visited Kingsholm earlier in the season, it was conceded that the side was one of the best that had taken the field this year for the Town. The only serious loss was that of Jackett, one of Cheltenham's heaviest and hardest working forwards. Jackett had the misfortune to put his finger out at Coventry, and he joins Fennell (a three-quarter who broke his wrist at Northampton) on the injured list. Cheltenham's supporters were glad to see Davy in his old position, and they were also pleased that a place in the team was found for Bloodworth, who had deputised so well for the full back in some of the recent matches.

Bloodworth was tried as scrum-half on Tuesday's game on the College enclosure, and so satisfactorily did he perform behind a winning pack that his selection for a like post to-day was inevitable, though probably nobody realised better than himself that both he and his forwards had a more difficult proposition in front of them this afternoon than when the "boys" of the College were their opponents.

The following were the teams : –

#### GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Welshman.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. Brown, T. Millington, G. J. Brown, and N. Daniell.

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

FORWARDS : G. Holford (capt.), F. W. Ayliffe, A. Ward, T. Voyce, J. H. Webb, N. Hayes, A. Comely, and F. Mansell.

#### CHELTENHAM

BACK : B. Davy.

THREE-QUARTERS : E. M. Nash, A. Green, L. Benbow, and W. Watson.

HALF-BACKS : W. G. Lane and B. S. Bloodworth.

FORWARDS : H. Wixey, F. Taylor, H. T. Stephens, W. Burford, W. Jackson, B. Dimond, J. Cocks, and L. Holliday.

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis (Stroud)

#### THE GAME

The Crowd was the largest seen on the Athletic Ground this season, and the teams took the field in bright sunshine, with not much wind blowing.

Cheltenham won the toss, and Holford kicked off for Gloucester with the sun in their faces. Bloodworth came away, but could not get far. Voyce recovered the ground, and then the Citizens were penalised.

Following up Davy's fine kick, Wixey prevented Welshman's return, and the ensuing play saw Cheltenham on the visitors' line. The Gloucester forwards cleared, but Davy sent the ball back, and the attack was again nullified by the visiting forwards.

Gloucester attempted passing, but the handling was by no means certain, both Daniell and S. Brown failing to take chances. As a consequence the game was in the visitors' quarter for some minutes.

Then Hall broke away finely and passed to Millington, who kicked to the home 25. Davy, however, was there, and back the ball came to half-way, only to be carried onward again by Hall.

From a scrum Dix initiated a capital bout which looked particularly dangerous, when Daniell received right in front of the home goal. The Cheltenham tackling, however, was sure, and nothing happened. Play was removed to the centre, where Dix opened out again, only to see the pass go astray on the left wing. Cheltenham now put up a fierce attack, but the situation was retrieved by one of the visitors marking on his own line.

Millington next took the ball from a line-out and made ground, but dropped the leather instead of passing it, and the home forwards rushed matters, being checked within half a dozen yards of the line.

Just afterwards, Gloucester were penalised, and Bloodworth tried a place-kick, which, however, fell short, and a little more promptness in following up might have given Cheltenham the lead points.

The home side were having the best of the game, and one of the forwards essaying to run on his knees only missed the line by inches. Voyce and Holford carried play out of danger, and in the ensuing struggle the ball came to Green, who kicked down to Welshman. The latter fumbled badly, and Cheltenham had another chance, but could not utilise it.

Voyce broke away and held on, notwithstanding that half a dozen home men were upon his back. Gloucester now got down on the home line, and Hall was upset when looking dangerous.

The Citizens were not to be denied, however, as from the succeeding scrum Dix again sent to Hall, who passed wide to Daniell, and the last mentioned crossed with ease. Welshman's kick struck the upright, but dropped the right side, and Gloucester were thus placed five points ahead within two minutes of the interval.

Cheltenham were attacking when the whistle went for "the breather," after Davy had kicked well to touch from Green's mark.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal  
CHELTENHAM ..... Nil

Wixey restarted, and the return being prevented some loose footwork was indulged in by the visitors, their position being further improved by a long kick over the line. Davy recovered most of the ground by a good touch-finder.

The Gloucester three-quarters now showed up strongly, a fine run by S. Brown being a prominent feature of some smart play. Brown's pass was well taken, but the movement was checked, and the home forwards removed operations to mid-field, Stephens and Wixey being always conspicuous in the loose. Nash had a chance of carrying matters further, but missed it by attempting to pick up, instead of using his feet.

S. Brown next received, but was pulled down by Nash after he had disposed of Green. Gloucester being again penalised, Davy took the kick, and only missed the post by inches.

Transferring operations to the other end, Gloucester attacked vigorously, and on the right wing Dix ran over, but was called back, having gone into touch. Cheltenham were next guilty of an off-side infringement, and Welshman vainly tried to notch points.

The home forwards showed their superiority in the loose, but in the pack the visitors had the advantage, the forwards heeling out well to Dix, who started movement after movement, only to find the Cheltenham tackling too good. When play was in the home quarter Hall nearly wriggled over the line, and Dix essayed a drop for goal which narrowly failed.

A free kick taken by Welshman landed in Davy's arms, but he was floored before he could mark or make a return. This made no difference, however, as the ball was rushed down the ground and Dimond went over with it, but was called back for a forward pass.

The visitors next came away in grand style, and S. Brown ran well to Davy, over whose head he kicked and then made tracks for the line. The Gloucester threes ran strongly for the leather, but the first man up was badly fouled by a Cheltenham player. For this the referee awarded Gloucester a penalty try, which Welshman converted.

The visitors continued to press, but nothing more was scored.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ..... 2 goals (10 points)  
CHELTENHAM ..... Nil

REMARKS

Cheltenham paid Gloucester the compliment of appearing at the top of their form, says our Cheltenham correspondent. Territorially they had most of the game in the first half, and they had quite their share in the second half. This was generally due to the speedy footwork of their forwards, who at times over-ran the visitors. They were beaten in the pack, the ball nine times out of ten coming to Dix, who, however, was considerably hampered by Bloodworth.

The home three-quarters acquitted themselves very creditably against the Gloucester quartette, Benbow, Green and Watson in particular doing good work both in attack and in defence.

In attack they had to make their own opportunities, as they received very few transfers from the half-backs. Davy was very sound at full-back, relieving his side with good length kicks, and never letting them down.

The strength of the Gloucester team was undoubtedly behind the scrum, yet the passing was not always clean or accurate. The movement which let in Daniell was the prettiest bit of play of the game and evoked warm applause from the impartial crowd.

S. Brown and Millington were often in the picture, and credit for the second score must be given to them in equal proportion. Brown beat several opponents before resorting to the clever tactics (kicking the ball over Davy's head) which would have given Millington a certain try had that player not been unfairly tripped by one of the Cheltenham men.

Dix and Hall were an effective pair of half-backs, and the fact that more of their movements did not mature must be credited to the smart tackling of the home side. Welshman was fairly good at full back, but on one occasion nearly let his side down.

The impression gained at the close of the match was that Gloucester well deserved their victory, which was gained by better finish and a greater ability to seize the opportunities which came their way, yet that a larger majority than ten points would have done Cheltenham an injustice.

The attendance numbered nearly 4,000, and £183 was taken at the gate.

#### GLOUCESTER A v. R.A.O.D.

#### CITY SECONDS' HANDSOME WIN

The return match between these teams was played at Kingsholm. The first game was won by the Ordnance by 14 points to 10.

Gloucester A. : G. Smith; H. Ashmead, F. Bloxham, H. Woodward, and J. Phelps; J. Humphries and T. Burns; S. Bayliss, G. Griffiths, E. Richardson, A. Wright, J. Merrett, G. Turner, E. Curtis, and D. G. Keball.

R.A.O.C. : T. Millar; A. M. Hill, S. R. Allen, P. Hancocks, and G. Meadows; G. Thomas and W. Sysum (capt.), R. Prosser, A. Slatter, A. Gill, F. Hodges, A. T. Brown, A. Smith, W. Perks, and A. E. Jones.

Referee : Mr. J. Harris.

The R.A.O.D. kicked off with the sun in their eyes, and quickly penetrated the home 25, where a forward rush was only saved by Gloucester conceding a minor. An intercepted pass led to the visitors making a pretty run from mid-field, in which a useful bout of handling was witnessed, but a knock-on spoiled the move on the Gloucester line. The Seconds now worked up, aided by some good touch-finders by Smith, but the teams seemed to be very evenly matched.

A score came to Gloucester as the result of a loose rush, Richardson touching down for Burns to convert. The R.A.O.D. now came away with a useful burst, but their threes were inclined to hold on to the ball too long, and the movement broke down. Heeling nicely the Gloucester pack gave the ball to Humphries, who set his threes going nicely, Ashmead making a swift dash on the wing only to be upset by Millar. Gloucester were pressing strongly now, and from a scrum on the R.A.O.D. line Ashmead secured and forced a try. Burns failed with the kick.

Another easy one came a few minutes later. The ball having been kicked forward, it was picked up by Humphries, who gave Millar the "dummy" and shaking off another opponent planted the ball in a position from which Burns had no difficulty in adding the necessary points.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A ..... 2 goals 1 try  
R.A.O.D. .... Nil

On the restart the R.A.O.D. attacked and maintained play in the home 25 for a short time, but relief came and the tables were turned on the visitors, who found themselves seriously pressed. Sysum relieved with a clever run and kick. A series of scrums at midfield gave the visitors some ground, and on several occasions their halves opened up the game, but their threes lacked combination, and individual efforts quickly broke down.

A try fell to Ashmead's lot after a fine sprint from the centre, Millar being easily passed. Burns was unable to goal. A knock-on by Smith let the R.A.O.D. into the home 25, but they were unable to make anything of their advantage, and Gloucester came away again. Rushing down the left wing with the ball at their feet, the forwards enabled Woodward to score an unconverted try in the corner.

The A team were now having the whole of the game, and another struggle on the visitors' line saw Humphries run round behind the posts – a very soft try. Burns converted.

The home pack were getting the ball pretty regularly, and several good passing movements were seen, but the visiting forwards played a hustling game, and more than once came well away with the ball at their feet.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 3 goals 3 tries (24 points)  
R.A.O.D. .... Nil

REMARKS

During the first quarter of an hour it looked as though the teams were fairly evenly matched, but the Ordnance fell off, and the A team improved to such an extent that they had no difficulty in securing an easy victory. Gloucester A were the better team in all departments, but it was at three-quarter that the R.A.O.D. were let down, for there was an entire lack of headwork, and what little passing was indulged in generally resulted in lost ground.



On the other hand, the forwards played a good, hustling game, but they were unable to prevent the Gloucester halves from opening out the game. Smith did excellently at back, and all the threes shaped well, Ashmead being perhaps the most noticeable. The Seconds thus obtained a handsome revenge for their former defeat.

JC