

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1920

FOOTBALL

BATH TEN POINTS DOWN AT KINGSHOLM

HUDSON'S BRILLIANT TRY

HUMPRIES' SUCCESS AT OUTSIDE HALF

Though Bath were heavily beaten at home by Gloucester in January, the match could not be regarded as a fair test between the clubs, as owing to a County Championship fixture the same afternoon Bath were seriously weakened. The Somerset Club, however, were better represented to-day, and after the splendid fight they made against Bristol last week, and in view of other good performances against first-class teams this season, they were fully expected to extend the City.

The Gloucester Selection Committee made an experiment at half-back by giving Humphries a trial with Dix; but Millington was shaping so well in the position that the move could hardly be followed. Jack Brown dropped out at centre to allow of Millington's inclusion in the third line, and it was stated on Friday night that Brown had intimated he had "finished" – evidently dissatisfied with the Committee's action.

Owing to an injury to his thigh sustained in the Leicester match, and further aggravated at Llanelly last week, Fred Webb was an absentee, and Holford, Jack Webb and Hayes were missing from the forward ranks. there were two late changes in the Bath team, Whittaker (full back) and Lock (forward) being substituted by J. Russell and Wilkins respectively.

Rain threatened to spoil the match again, but the conditions improved at 3.0 o'clock, though a stiff breeze blew across the ground.

The attendance was only moderate when the rival teams took the field as follows : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Welshman.

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

HALF-BACKS : W. Dix and J. Humphries.

FORWARDS : S. Smart, T. Voyce, A. Hall, F. Ayliffe, F. Ward, C. Mumford, A. Redding, F. Mansell.

BATH

BACK : J. Russell.

THREE-QUARTERS : P. P. Hope, A. Woodward, H. Richardson, and L. V. Burt.

HALF-BACKS : S. G. U. Considine and H. Vowles.

FORWARDS : L. J. Richardson, H. Gregory, F. Russell, W. H. Royal, G. Wilkins, W. H. Sheppard, C. Carruthers, and S. Chaddock.

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis (Gloucester County Union).

THE GAME

Bath started, and, Voyce failing to gather, play opened in the home half. A kick down to Russell saw the latter fail, and Ward, gathering the ball, ran down and passed to Millington, who returned inside, but the movement was stopped. Humphries was charged over and temporarily laid out, but was able to resume after attention from the Ambulance men. Play hovered in the Bath end until Russell, from a mark, found touch at the centre. Here Dix, getting possession from his forwards, opened out to Millington, who dashed through, but passed behind Hudson, and Washbourn had some difficulty in getting the ball away. Finally Humphries secured and got in a capital touch-finder.

Ensuing play was rather quiet at mid-field, the wind playing tricks with the ball and preventing correct passing. Dix at length sent out a wide pass to Hudson, who gave the "dummy," but was collared before he could make any headway. The ball getting loose, the Gloucester forwards started off with a big rush, but Russell robbed them and kicked back in fine style.

A penalty to Gloucester saw Welshman have a shot for goal, but his kick fell short. Brown, following up, forced Woodward to send straight to touch, and Gloucester secured a good attacking position. The City went very close, but the visitors saved on the line. From the subsequent scrum Dix fed Humphries, and the outside half, going strongly from the mark, beat the defence and notched a good try. Welshman just missed the goal points.

Following the drop-out Bath reached the centre, but they were quickly forced back. A nice bout of passing got the ball out to Brown who, travelling well, rounded Woodward and cross-kicked cleverly, but Bath saved. Dix, with a neat move on the short side of the scrum, made a good slice of ground, but Vowles and Considine, with clever combination, recovered, the latter being well tackled when looking dangerous.

Humphries and Brown, with nice kicks, gave Gloucester the advantage territorially, and operations were contested in the visitors' half. A penalty was awarded the City for off-side by a visiting forward, and Welshman punting high the home forwards got under the ball, but could do nothing. Dix gave a good service to Humphries from the next scrum, and Millington, Hudson and Washbourn in turn handled, the latter being thrown to touch close in by Considine.

For a couple of minutes the Bath defence was severely pressed, but the forwards eventually dribbled clear to beyond the centre. Here Gloucester opened out, but the passing was too slow, and Brown got no chance. Dix and Millington combined well on the right, and later the centre dribbled in capital style, but Vowles checked.

Gloucester continued to have the better of the exchanges, but the backs were faulty, Hudson missing a difficult transfer when there was every possibility of a score. Bath played up strongly in subsequent play, and the equalising try came shortly afterwards. A Gloucester movement broke down, and Woodward, taking advantage, had a clear field with the exception of Welshman. Punting over the latter's head, the ball went over the line, and Woodward, racing on, gained the touch for a good try. The same players missed with his goal kick.

Gloucester resumed, and early Washbourn was conspicuous with a fine run down touch, but could not quite clear the opposition. Then a home player tried for a drop at goal with several men well placed for a passing movement. More fumbling followed on the part of the City, and these mistakes enabled Bath to hold their own. The visiting forwards, with a good rush, broke clear, but Brown gathered the ball from their feet and brought off a splendid run, beating several opponents in great style. His pass, however, went astray.

Gloucester attacked strongly after this, and Hudson and Dix shone with some clever inter-passing, but the final transfer was forward. The City, however, were not to be denied, and following a forward burst Humphries scored in the corner. Washbourn landed a grand goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

 GLOUCESTER 1 goal, 1 try
 BATH 1 try

Smart restarted for Gloucester, but the Somerset men, with good footwork, easily gained an advantage. A bad pass from Considine to Hope was recovered by the latter, who dodged cleverly and secured a good opening, but spoiled it by dropping for goal. Gloucester prevented the return, and then Humphries, getting possession, brought off a clever run, beating his opponents cheaply by feinting to pass. When he did pass, however, it was dropped, and Woodward snapping up the ball raced away to Welshman. Considine was backing up on the left, and taking a wide transfer full on the run scored a fine try. Woodward failed at goal.

This was Bath's second opportunist try, and did not show Gloucester up in any too pleasing a light. Humphries was knocked out again through being upset when he passed, but was able to continue after a few minutes' rest.

Gloucester showed up with a promising passing bout when the game was resumed, but it again broke down, and Gloucester were lucky in stopping a visitor from getting away. In subsequent play Gloucester were further at fault in handling, movements breaking down in aggravating fashion. Once the forwards took matters into their own hands, and combined in a dashing burst, but Russell checked in daring fashion. Still the City attacked, and Dix started Millington with every promise of a score, but the centre held on too long and was collared. The Bath line narrowly escaped a minute later, and scrums followed close in. Humphries, receiving from one, brought off a strong dash, and though hemmed in managed to get the ball down for a try. Welshman failed at goal.

Subsequent exchanges were somewhat scrambling, Bath playing a bustling forward game and keeping the City going all the time. There was little of incident, however, though there was no lack of vigour and keenness displayed, especially forward. A fine kick down by Considine gave Bath a good slice of ground, Welshman being forced to touch by Hope, who had followed up smartly.

The venue was changed by a big kick by Humphries, which went a long way past Russell. Hope ran back, and though pressed by Voyce, who had followed up, got in a kick to touch. From this point the ball got in the loose, and Smart kicked down the field to the visitors' 25. Mistakes lost the position, and Gregory, taking advantage, dribbled back, but could not keep the ball out of touch. Scrappy play ensued, both sides being at fault on several occasions. Eventually the ball was sent to Welshman, who cross-kicked for Hudson to gather. Though several opponents were in his immediate vicinity, the old International beat them cleverly, and with a magnificent dash finished a brilliant run by scoring behind the posts. Welshman converted, and Gloucester led by 10 points.

In the next five minutes Gloucester came near adding to their lead, Voyce being all but over from a pass from Ayliffe. Bath cleared luckily, but Welshman stopped a dangerous movement smartly, and the City quickly got out to the centre. Bath, however, were not done with, and after a sharp attack Woodward forced a minor with a drop at goal. Gloucester had the better of the last few minutes, but failed to add to their score.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 2 goals 2 tries (16 pts.)
BATH 2 tries (6 pts.)

REMARKS

Gloucester won, as they deserved to do on the run of the game, but I cannot say the display of the City team gave entire satisfaction. Allowing for the gusty wind, which upset calculations a good deal, far too many mistakes occurred behind the scrum, and the combined movements lacked the skill and finish one expects from first-class exponents. Bath played a hard and bustling game forward, and their footwork at times gave the home men cause for anxiety on more than one occasion. The visiting backs, however, were similarly at fault with the home men when it came to handling, and the result was a lot of scrappy and uninteresting football.

The one incident of the afternoon was Hudson's solo effort in the second half – quite one of the old sort. The Bath defenders tried hard to stop the progress of the acting City captain, but one could see Hudson's mind was made up for a try directly he started on his run, and the manner in which he defeated the opposition fairly electrified the crowd.

A good deal of interest was centred in the appearance of Humphries at outside half, and the fact that the A teamer scored three tries is a good indication of his success in the position. He is a strong runner – his bursts for the line to-day fully evidenced this fact – possesses a safe pair of hands, knows what to do with the ball, and, a very important factor, he is a very fine kick.

For a first time with Dix, Humphries did all that was reasonably possible this afternoon, and in the old Schoolboy International Gloucester would appear to have a player able to fit in at scrum or fly half – a very useful recruit.

Dix played his usual clever and resourceful game to-day, especially in attack, but the support in the rear was not what it ought to have been. Hudson, apart from that one great effort, was not in the same form he was at Bath[sic], and Millington did not appear to such advantage at centre as he had been at half-back.

The ball was thrown about a good deal by the "threes," but too many risks were taken, and as often as not Gloucester lost ground. Sid Brown, who deputised for F. Webb, played his best game since his injury. He appeared to have recovered his speed, dash and confidence, and one or two of his efforts were very praiseworthy. On the left wing Washbourn had several sharp dashes, but neither wing was served any too well.

At full back, Welshman had no chance to stop either point scored by Bath. Both were opportunist tries, but highly meritorious. Russell was often out of position for Bath, but on other occasions he saved remarkably well.

Forward, Gloucester were worried a great deal to-day, and the display as a whole did not reach the City's standard. In the loose the Bath eight were particularly dangerous, and the men also showed strong tackling powers. The home team were best represented by Voyce, Smart, Redding and Ayliffe, with Hall doing good work in the long lines-out and saving.

Bath possess a couple of good backs in Considine and Woodward, and they were the shining lights this afternoon. Richardson and Hope were seen little of, and as a line the visitors were not very successful.

The efforts were mainly individual, and Woodward was easily the pick on the day's play. The forwards were a hard-working lot, of whom Royal and L. Richardson showed to advantage.

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