

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1932

POINTLESS DRAW AT CHELTENHAM

CITY FORWARDS IN FORM

Gloucester had to make a big call on reserves for the first of the two fixtures with Cheltenham on the Athletic Ground. Saxby, Carpenter, Tanner and James (on the reserve) were all at Twickenham, and McCanlis, Franklin, and Steele-Perkins had to be replaced. Cheltenham were short of Tomlinson, Ward, Osborne and James.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : I. C. Bendall, G. W. Parker, G. Orpen, and J. Bowen.

HALF-BACKS : F. Fifield and J. C. Brooks.

FORWARDS : F. Wadley, E. Comley, J. Hemming, A. Welshman, J. Bean, T. Hiam, F. G. Merrett, H. J. Hyett.

CHELTENHAM

BACK : R. Oldham.

THREE-QUARTERS : G. M. Cavendish, E. G. Vaughan, E. H. Lloyd, and H. M. Falconer.

HALF-BACKS : D. A. Page and D. Howell.

FORWARDS : R. A. Bullens, E. Castle, H. Meek, J. B. Bowers, A. Davis, W. Holtam, R. Baldwin, and A. Febrey.

REFEREE : Major Partridge (Newport).

Gloucester made three changes, In the forwards J. Bean came in for K. Smith, while J. Bowen and G. Orpin displaced Baker and A. E. Brookes. Cheltenham were also forced to make a last minute alteration, J. Fry being absent. R. A. Bullens came in, in his place.

The ground was firm, and seemed to be in good condition, and the game began before a good crowd.

Cheltenham got into the Gloucester half early on, but Parker picked up a loose pass before giving to Brooks. Vaughan stopped him, and next Cavendish broke through for Cheltenham, on the left. His pass went astray and play came back to mid-field.

Gloucester were heeling the ball out almost every time, but Cheltenham had the wings well marked. At last Cheltenham got possession in a line-out. Castle broke away and Bowers was within inches of scoring from the pass, but Boughton saved a dangerous situation. He was called upon again when Brooks fumbled and let Cheltenham through. Cheltenham were pressing hard, but the visiting backs made a desperate rush to ease the pressure, but Page caught Boughton's kick and nearly got through.

HALF-TIME :

GLoucester Nil
CHELTENHAM Nil

Cheltenham attacked immediately on the restart, but their forwards were still the inferior set, and Gloucester soon got possession. Fifield made a brilliant dash, and as he was well backed up a score seemed likely. When the ball left the scrum, however, the Cheltenham threes made sure of their men.

Play was now much brighter, and Gloucester flung the ball about with beautiful precision. Boughton made a mark in his own half and found touch near the home line, but again Cheltenham marked their men and Gloucester were driven off.

At last Cheltenham got the ball back and started the best movement of the match. All the threes handled twice and were unfortunate to lose the ball in touch in the Gloucester 25. This gave the visitors their chance to clear. After several attempts, the City threes got going and forced Oldham to touch down.

Brooks tried a drop at goal and hit the upright. Gloucester went back to mid-field, where the home forwards got the ball, but Bowen took advantage of a mistake, from a neck and neck race to the home line. Oldham kicked the ball back, however, and Gloucester were robbed of a try.

RESULT :

CHELTENHAM Nil

GLOUCESTER Nil

COMMENTS

Gloucester forwards were masters of the game almost throughout. Cheltenham made up for their deficiency forward by excellent defensive work. The marking of their threes undoubtedly saved the game for them. The Gloucester back division were good in combination, but they lacked the ability to finish off good movements cleanly. Brooks was the best man behind the scrum, and used his head to advantage.

UNITED'S SPEEDY BACKS

CHELTENHAM SECONDS OUTLCASSED

Gloucester United and Cheltenham United were late starting at Kingsholm this afternoon, the City reserves having difficulty in getting a team together. They commenced one forward short.

The home men opened the attack, and their threes were nearly over, but the Town defence was stubborn. Offside in a scrummage in front of the posts gave Hook the chance to land an early goal, but he missed.

Two minutes later Don Meadows got away cleverly and transferred to Hook, who made a speedy dash to score a try, which he failed to convert.

Clarke was carried off hurt, but returned. Gloucester had done all the attacking, and the Town threes lacked thrust.

Attacks by the home backs narrowly failed, and at last Powell snapped up a try which Hook failed to convert.

HALF-TIME :

Gloucester United 2 tries

Cheltenham United Nil

Gloucester opened the second half with a three-quarter attack which led to Clarke going over for an unconverted try.

The City continued to press. Don Meadows went through brilliantly, but the ball was lost after his pass. But later he created an opening for Clarke to put Llewellyn Jones in for another unconverted try. A few minutes later a forward dash led to Powell getting a fifth.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER UNITED ... 5 tries (15 Pts.)

CHELTENHAM UNITED Nil