

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1932

GLOUCESTER 9 PTS., CHELTENHAM 8 PTS.

EXCITING FINISH AT KINGSHOLM

VIGOROUS GAME BUT MANY MISTAKES

SHEPPARD'S TWO FINE TRIES

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Cheltenham, with a record in the last four games with Gloucester, of two victories and two drawn games, had great hopes of adding to their triumphs in the return meeting at Kingsholm this afternoon.

The Town were encouraged in this view by the splendid win over Penarth last week, and the fact that Gloucester are not so feared at home as in the past.

Gloucester's last victories over Cheltenham were in season 1928-9, when the City won at Cheltenham by 9 pts. to nil, and the return at Kingsholm by 9 pts. to 3.

STRONG TEAMS OUT

When the teams met at Cheltenham in January this year a pointless draw was recorded, and form pointed to another close contest to-day. Both clubs fielded strong sides, the only absentees of note being Tanner from Gloucester (engaged in the International trial at Twickenham) and Osborne, Cheltenham, who has been down with influenza. The town team included A. J. Tomlinson, who two seasons ago played regularly for the City at scrum half.

The weather was bright, though cold, and the attendance was about 5,000, including a large contingent of Cheltenham supporters. The visitors had to make a late change forward, H. Meek, owing to an accident yesterday, having to cry off. His place was filled by R. Baldwin, of the United team.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : G. W. Parker, M. A. McCanlis, J. C. Brooks, and V. Sheppard.

HALF-BACKS : R. James and F. Fifield.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby (capt.), A. Carpenter, F. Wadley, E. Comley, J. Hemming, A. Welshman, and Dr. R. N. Williams.

CHELTENHAM

BACK : R. Holtham.

THREE-QUARTERS : L. E. M. Goddard, N. S. Henderson, J. Davies, and H. P. Ward.

HALF-BACKS : C. James and A. J. Tomlinson.

FORWARDS : D. Howell (capt.), C. Fry, A. C. Castle, R. Baldwin, A. Davies, A. Febrey, Capt. C. E. A. Firth, and W. Holtam.

REFEREE : Mr. A. J. Lock (Somerset)

THE GAME

Gloucester won the toss, and the Town kicked off against the sun. From the first scrum Cheltenham heeled, James securing found touch close to the home line. James punted out, but a penalty was awarded the visitors for offside. Holtham had an easy shot for goal, but sent wide, and Brooks kicked clear.

Cheltenham at once worked back, and a bad pass from Brooks to Sheppard allowed Ward to dribble on, where a City player luckily turned the ball to touch. From the ensuing line-out Carpenter broke away and kicked past Oldham, but Davies got back and saved.

FRUITLESS SHOTS FOR GOAL

Gloucester tried passing and the ball was got quickly across to Parker, who was well collared by Davies. Boughton here had a shot for goal from a penalty, but the wind diverted the direction of the ball and only a minor resulted. A little later the same player had another place, but was no more successful.

Play was very fast, but the erratic wind was causing the players trouble in judging the flight of the ball. Cheltenham made headway with a penalty, Boughton knocking on in fielding, and the game settled in the home half. The ground was won back by Boughton with another penalty, the players being too keen.

CITY LINE IN DANGER

A breakaway by Tomlinson saw Ward make headway for Cheltenham, but Goddard was upset directly he received the ball. A high punt by James was fumbled by Boughton, and the home line was in danger when Parker recovered nicely and kicked to touch.

Comley was temporarily injured, but was able to resume after attention. Play favoured the Town, who were assisted by James failing to hold a pass from Fifield. The visiting forwards dribbled through, but Boughton collected the ball beautifully from their feet, and punted to touch.

SHEPPARD PROMINENT

A fine kick by the City custodian took play to the centre, where the Gloucester backs opened out. Brooks cut through nicely, but his pass went astray, and though James tried to recover he knocked on doing so.

A little later Sheppard brought off a dashing run, but he succumbed to a couple of opponents on the 25 line. Brooks carried on and crossed the line, but he had stepped into touch.

Gloucester worked desperately for a score, but Cheltenham held firmly and relieved the pressure, Near the centre James brought off a dazzling run, beating opponents cleverly with the "dummy." He secured a nice opening, and there was a splendid chance on the left. Parker received and went over in fine style, but a forward transfer was given.

CITY'S DESPERATE ATTACKS

Cheltenham were kept strictly on the defensive, and only fine defence kept the City out. James dropped for goal, but it was a poor attempt. The ball, however, rebounded from the upright, and had McCanlis been able to gather he would have scored easily.

It was all Gloucester, and the Town were heavily pressed. From passing, Sheppard made a glorious effort to score, but was tackled a few yards from the line. He managed to get an inside transfer to Brooks, but the centre was also brought down.

SHEPPARD AGAIN

With useful kicking Cheltenham eventually gained breathing space and a wild pass back by Fifield gave them further ground. Then a passing movement gave Sheppard the ball, and the right-wing beat Goddard and dashed ahead. When faced by Oldham he essayed a pass inside, and the ball was captured by Davis. The latter was tackled at once, but Gloucester had lost a good opening.

Strong forward play by Welshman put Gloucester on the attack again and James made a big bid to score in the corner, but was overwhelmed. Oldham was instrumental in bring relief with a neat run and pass, and the Town got out beyond the 25 line.

CHELTENHAM SCORE

A mishap to Tomlinson delayed the game for a couple of minutes and on resuming Cheltenham were almost immediately penalised, but Boughton was very wide with his place kick. Cheltenham progressed after the drop out, and fumbling behind by the home backs allowed the forwards to kick past Boughton. Parker came across and gathered the ball, but his punt out was blown back over the line by the wind. It bounced away from a couple of Gloucester forwards towards HOWELL, who touched down for a lucky try. Holtham's shot for goal hit the upright.

Play to the interval favoured Gloucester, but the Cheltenham forwards relieved with a splendid rush to the centre.

HALF-TIME :

CHELTENHAM	1 try
GLOUCESTER	Nil

Cheltenham owed their lead to their opportunism. Gloucester had done far more attacking, but finishing was poor, and there were too many mistakes in handling.

Gloucester restarted with great determination, but more failures to handle lost good positions.

THRILLING TRY BY SHEPPARD

James shone with a brilliant run and pass to Sheppard, but the latter was collared from behind. Cheltenham gained ground with a useful rush, and then came a thrilling try by SHEPPARD. James started with a clever run, but slipped and fell. He got the ball away to Comley, who threw it wide to Brooks. The centre fed Sheppard, who beat Goddard and Oldham in great style and scored wide out.

Boughton missed the goal points, but the City had levelled the scores.

MANY MISTAKES

Gloucester showed up strongly on the restart, Parker coming into the picture with a fine run. Next Brooks cleared the opposition cleverly, and there were prospects of a score when he was pounced upon from behind and prevented passing. Boughton met with no success with another penalty kick, and James' punt across over the line was not attended with any tangible result. The wind was very strong and erratic, and the attempts at handling and gathering were very poor.

GLOUCESTER TAKE THE LEAD

Play was wholly confined to the Cheltenham half, but the football was scrappy at times, though vigorous forward. Saxby and James tried a movement which nearly came off; failure to take a sharp transfer by the latter checking him going through. For a palpable off-side tackle, Cheltenham were penalised 40 yards out, and BOUGHTON with a well-directed shot landed a good goal gaining Gloucester the lead.

CITY BEHIND AGAIN

Cheltenham held their own on the restart in some vigorous forward play at the centre. There was a kick across, and Henderson fielding, went away with a strong burst attended by Ward and Goddard. He beat Boughton, and threw out to Goddard, who sent back inside for WARD to score in a good position. Holtham kicked a neat goal, and Cheltenham were again ahead. This was a capital try and well deserved the points.

EXCITING FOOTBALL

There was some desperate work on the resumption, Gloucester putting in tremendous efforts to score. The Cheltenham defence held out, however, under the greatest pressure. Fry eventually relieved and Henderson further improved. Cheltenham attacked on the right with neat inter-passing, which was stopped in time. Gloucester retaliated with a fine effort by Sheppard, but the wing man could not quite get through.

PARKER NEARLY SCORES

Play fluctuated after this, and a long combined dribble by the Town nearly brought another score. The ball eventually went over the line, and the City touched down. Cheltenham finished in dashing style, tackling with great effect and doing splendidly in the loose. For Gloucester Parker put in a great solo effort, just failing to score in the corner.

THE WINNING POINTS

Gloucester put on tremendous pressure in the closing stages, and SHEPPARD added to the City's score with a splendid try, Boughton failing to convert. The end came soon afterwards.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ... 1 goal (p.) 2 tries (9 pts.)
CHELTENHAM 1 goal 1 try 8 pts.)

REMARKS

Cheltenham came very near repeating last season's surprise, but a great effort by Sheppard in the closing stages brought victory to the City by a solitary point. Gloucester should have won by a far bigger margin on the play, but the City's attacks broke down repeatedly owing to faulty handling, added to which the Town's marking was exceptionally close and sure.

THE CLIMAX

The City forwards held a commanding advantage in the scrums, but in the loose Cheltenham accomplished some splendid work, and were seen at their best in the last quarter. Following Ward's try the visitors appeared to have the game in hand, and Gloucester were lucky in not having another try scored against them after a dribble three-parts the length of the field. Some of the most exciting incidents in the match were crowded into the last few minutes, the climax being reached when Sheppard put on the winning points for the City.

FRY AS SPOILER

Cheltenham often had Fry out of the front to assist the defence, and the spoiling attentions of the County wing forward put a stop to numerous City attacks. But there were several occasions when Gloucester should have got through, but for careless muddling. The strong wind no doubt was a big handicap to the players, but the best judgment was not always exercised.

STRENUOUS FORWARD WORK

The contest forward was very strenuous, and the Cheltenham eight put up a downright good show. They were quick on the ball, and showed dashing footwork, which enabled them to completely change the venue of play. Gloucester, too, kept things moving, and in all-round play Welshman, Wadley, Williams, Smith and Carpenter were seen to great advantage. For the Town Howell, Davis, Firth, and Castle were hard workers throughout.

FINISH LACKING

Behind the scrum there was a lack of finish, though occasionally there was some clever combination, and individual efforts.

Gloucester might easily have lost the game through missed chances. Fifield was not so certain as usual in his service this afternoon, but behind the better heeling pack he had more opportunities than Tomlinson. James made one or two beautiful runs, but the most successful of the Gloucester backs was Sheppard, who ran with great determination and was always a danger in attack. Parker, on the other wing, also got through a lot of splendid work, and it was a bit of bad luck that he failed to score just before the end after a solo effort from half-way. In the centre McCanlis and Brooks were uncertain in their handling, but the International did some excellent covering work and defended well.

Boughton had plenty to do at full back, and he was rarely found wanting. Oldham, too, rendered useful service for Cheltenham, though beaten in gathering the ball occasionally. But the majority of the players were guilty of mistakes in this respect. The Cheltenham three-quarters displayed promise at times, but their chances of combined attacks were very limited. Henderson showed up strongly when he led up to Cheltenham's second try, and Davies proved a sound tackler.

UNITED'S BIG WIN

CHELTENHAM KEPT ON THE RUN

P. Jones, of Gloucester, scored three tries, one of which was converted, in the first half of the match between Gloucester United and Cheltenham United on the Cheltenham Athletic Ground.

His first try came as a result of a three-quarter movement. On resuming he ran half the length of the field immediately to score his second try. A. Smith scored a penalty goal for Cheltenham, but Gloucester increased their lead before half time, Jones going over for Hook to convert.

Half-time :

Gloucester United 1 goal 2 tries
Cheltenham United 1 goal (p)

In the second half Don Meadows dropped two goals. Orpin scored two tries, and Voyce and Fowke one each. Hook converted one.

Result :

Gloucester United ... 4 goals (2 d.) 5 tries (33 pts.)
Cheltenham United 1 goal (p.) (3 pts.)