

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1932

PLYMOUTH ALBION 3 Pts., GLOUCESTER NIL

CITY BEATEN BY A PENALTY GOAL

SCORING CHANCES MISSED BY BOTH TEAMS

WELL CONTESTED GAME

Gloucester were engaged in the first of their three matches on tour to-day, when they opposed Plymouth Albion at Beacon Park.

In the first game between the teams at Kingsholm the City were returned winners by 1 goal (d), 1 try (7 points) to nil.

Roy James dropped the goal and Graham Parker scored the try.

Gloucester lacked the services of McCanlis, Tanner, Meadows and Carpenter this afternoon, but a useful side fielded, and the visitors were not without hope of repeating last year's triumph.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

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

HALF-BACKS : F. Fifield and Roy James.

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

PLYMOUTH ALBION

BACK : A. Rowe.

THREE-QUARTERS : T. Rees, V. Lewis, H. Gormley, and O. Parker.

HALF-BACKS : E. Richards and J. Cox.

FORWARDS : E. Stanbury, R. Sparkes, M. Wilson, J. Beer, B. James, A. Brigstocke, H. Rowe, and W. Paul.

REFEREE : Mr. H. J. Simmonds (Newton Abbot)

THE GAME

The weather was dull but dry, and there was a crowd of about 2,000.

Good touch-finding by Boughton took Gloucester into Albion territory a few minutes after the kick-off.

The Plymouth forwards heeled more cleanly, and breaking up quickly, Gloucester had few chances of pushing home their territorial advantage.

ALBION SPOIL GOOD CHANCE

The Albion three-quarters were unimpressive during the opening stages, their handling being at fault, and they lost one excellent opportunity of taking an early lead when Richards, after breaking through and outwitting the defence, spoilt the movement by sending out a poor pass to Cox.

PLYMOUTH TAKE THE LEAD

In the next minute the Albion forwards swarmed down to the Gloucester line, J. Brooks touching down to save in a melee on the line.

The relief was only temporary, however, for Albion came back to the attack, and when Gloucester were penalised, SPARKES had no difficulty in kicking a penalty goal to give Plymouth the lead a quarter of an hour after the start.

CITY FORWARDS DO WELL

As the game progressed, the Gloucester forwards began to assert themselves and to hold the Albion pack. On several occasions they heeled the ball smartly, and Fifield was able to get it away, but although James, Sheppard, and J. C. Brooks made neat openings, the Albion tackling was too keen for them to get far.

The most promising chance they had was when James went through on his own, and punted ahead, but he was just beaten in the race to touch down.

BAD HANDLING

Gloucester lost ground on several occasions through being penalised for scrum infringements, and towards the interval Albion took control of the game. Fortunately for Gloucester, the Albion three-quarters were erratic in their handling, and they threw chance after chance away by bad passing.

HALF-TIME :

PLYMOUTH ALBION 1 goal (p.)
GLOUCESTER Nil

A determined rush by Stanbury, Sparkes, and Wilson put Albion into a favourable position soon after the resumption. The initial movement came to an end when Parker failed to take his pass from Sparkes, but Albion kept play in the Gloucester 25 for some time.

SMART MOVEMENT

After a succession of scrums the Gloucester forwards got possession, and Fifield opened a combined movement which started just in front of the Gloucester goal and ended on the Albion 25 line. James cut through, and the ball travelled to Brookes and Brooks to Parker, who punted ahead when challenged. He followed up his kick smartly, but was deceived by the bounce of the ball, and had to be content with touch by the Albion 25 line.

The Albion were penalised just after this when Richards was off-side, but Boughton's kick from 40 yards fell short, and from it Plymouth were able to clear.

GLOUCESTER'S BAD LUCK

Gloucester had another great chance of opening up their account when Hyett, Saxby and Hemming broke through the Plymouth defence and had only Rowe, the full-back, to beat. A try seemed certain, but Hyett's pass to Fifield, almost on the line, was slightly forward, and Fifield's try was disallowed.

A few minutes later Gloucester had another chance when Rowe fell when trying to gather the ball from a long kick. Sheppard followed up his kick, but fell before he could get up, and Rowe managed to recover himself.

SHEPPARD'S FINE EFFORT

Gloucester made desperate efforts to get on level terms in the closing stages.

Sheppard made one sterling run along the touch line, beating opponent after opponent, but eventually he had to pass in and then the tables were turned, for though the Gloucester backs were well up Sparkes intercepted and broke through.

He reached the half-way line, and then transferred to Cox, who had a clear run in but was recalled, the pass being forward.

RESULT :

PLYMOUTH 1 goal (p.) (3 points)

GLOUCESTER Nil

GLO'STER UNITED'S LAST MATCH

For the last match of the season Gloucester United met Bath United at Kingsholm. Gloucester were the first team to beat Bath United this season. There was a fair-sized crowd present despite the bad weather. The ground was slippery and soaked with rain.

Gloucester United : D. Parker; P. Jones, R. Clarke, W. R. Young, and H. Morgan; K. Voyce and Don Meadows; G. Fowke, J. Dean, N. Powell, G. Welshman, T. Hiam, D. Dash, A. Trapp, and J. Winstone.

Bath United : C. Bailey; E. Eastcott, W. Shortman, J. Jacobs, and F. James; L. Wardle and F. Rhymes; P. Curtis, J. Jones, J. Jenkins, J. Tanner, M. Pounds, L. Hardy, J. Wilkins, and R. Sampson.

Neither side could find an opening in the first few minutes. With a series of rushes Gloucester worked down to the Bath 25 and Morgan and Meadows both made good attempts to score. Gloucester were heeling nicely, but their chance had not yet come.

Eastcott broke away on the right for Bath, and outstripped his opponents to give a splendid opening to Wardle. Jones cut across from the Gloucester right-wing, however, and caught Wardle a few feet from the line. The ball went out to the Bath left wing, and James scored wide out, the kick failing.

Bath were soon attacking again, and twice Morgan saved the Gloucester line. With a good run on the left wing, Gloucester gained the Bath territory. Clarke and James nearly got over, but the former knocked on a few feet from the line. Meadows made an opening for Morgan a little later with a cross-kick, but Bath sent the ball into touch behind their line. The Bath line was in danger. Meadows eventually seized an opportunity, intercepting a pass to the Bath threes, ran through, and gave to Hiam, who touched down. The kick failed.

Bath took advantage of a mistake in the home defence, and Tanner touched down, and Wardle converted.

Half-time Score :
Bath United 1 goal 1 try
Gloucester United 1 try

The second half opened with a bout of punting in which Meadows finally found touch. Gloucester pressed and Morgan came near scoring. Gloucester held their ground, and after several unavailing breakaways Powell scored with a bunch of players on top of him. The kick failed.

Meadows nearly put Morgan through just after, but the latter fumbled a high pass. Gloucester forwards were playing well together in the loose, and kept up the pressure, until a series of rushes took Bath to the other end.

The game was still fast. Breakaways by both sides were frequent, but none came near scoring until Jones fly-kicked ahead on the right for Gloucester, and just managed to touch down wide out. Meadows failed with the kick.

Bath were awarded a free for off-side, but the kick at goal failed. Bath maintained an attack, but the home forwards relieved. A little later Parker saved an almost certain try in the nick of time.

RESULT :
GLOUCESTER UNITED 3 tries (9 pts.)
BATH UNITED 1 goal 1 try (8 pts.)