

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1927

GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM

VIGOROUS GAME IN WRETCHED CONDITIONS

CITY WIN BY SOLITARY TRY

Gloucester paid their annual visit to Cheltenham this afternoon. The City three-quarter line had to be re-arranged owing to the absence of James and J. Stephens (assisting the County), and Saxby (also at Exeter) and Voyce were away from the forwards.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. N. Loveridge (capt.), A. M. David, A. W. Lewis, and R. C. Thompson.

HALF-BACKS : R. Milliner and D. Meadows.

FORWARDS : A. Hall, J. K. Evans, A. Comley, J. Hemmings, R. Smart, T. Wadley, F. Russell, and T. East.

CHELTENHAM

BACK : C. Fry.

THREE-QUARTERS : W. Fellows, H. Goring, G. E. Vaughan, and W. Hart.

HALF-BACKS : C. James and R. Scobell.

FORWARDS : R. H. Jukes (capt.), T. Harry, A. J. Owner, D. Stayte, R. Worgan, W. Febrey, G. B. C. Stephens, and F. P. A. Woods.

Referee : Mr. J. Hall (Cinderford).

THE GAME

The unfavourable weather had a marked effect on the attendance. The rain had slightly eased off when Cheltenham started operations. The home eight carried the first scrum, and Vaughan kicked down to Boughton, who recovered the ground with interest. The visitors went away with the ball at their feet, but one of the forwards got off-side, and Hart sent the ball back to near mid-field. Another punt by Hart came into Boughton's arms, and though he was quickly pounced upon, the visiting full back got his kick in. Another effort by Hart was fielded by Lewis, who made his mark, and then found touch, gaining a good slice of territory.

Play in the first ten minutes had, on the whole, been even, but when Cheltenham were penalised in their own half Boughton tried a place-kick and failed. David then followed up the kick, but he was successfully tackled and brought down by Fry. Kick and rush tactics put Cheltenham on the attack but the movement ended in a scrum. Milliner got the ball but his attempted transfer did not come to hand, and the home forwards dribbled a dozen yards, only however, to be kept back by Boughton.

The ball becoming loose, Vaughan and Goring got it clear of the visiting team but failed to pick up the greasy oval and Boughton again came to the rescue with a touch-finder. A good dribble by Scobell, and then Cheltenham for the first time got into Gloucester's 25 and looked like going over, but there was a lack of finish and the defence prevailed.

From the penalty awarded against the visitors, Jukes got in a long kick, but back again the Gloucester forwards came, only however, to be checked by the home forwards. The pace was fairly fast, and there was not much to choose between the forwards. The three-quarters had little chance of shining, but Thompson once made an opening for himself and ran twenty yards before being sent to touch.

The City men got into the home twenty-five and looked dangerous until Jukes and his colleagues relieved the situation with a determined rush. Scobell got the ball away to James, who put in a few strides and then tried to pass to Vaughan. The transfer was not quick enough and the movement was missed before it could be developed.

The home forwards came away, and when in the visitors' 25, Goring dribbled to Fellows, who, however, was unable to carry the ball over the line and a capital chance was missed. Milliner opened out and Gloucester got right upon the line thanks to a mistake by Fry, a score being narrowly averted.

HALF-TIME :
CHELTENHAM Nil
GLOUCESTER Nil

The fact that neither team were able to score in the first half fairly represented the even state of the game. Each side had its chances, but neither possessed the necessary finish to secure points. On resuming Gloucester attacked strongly. Fry preserved his line for a time, but eventually COMLEY shouldered those before him out of the way and crossed in the corner. Boughton failed to add the extra points.

The game continued to be fought with vigour, and Milliner started a round of passing, in which Meadows, David and Loveridge all handled well. Led by Jukes, Organ and Febrey, the Cheltenham forwards forced their way into the visitors' 25, where James secured, but instead of opening out he attempted a kick, which failed.

Still pressing, Cheltenham, through Hart and Goring, had another chance, but neither could lift the greasy ball. Scobell got off-side and gave Boughton the opportunity for another long shot, which was unsuccessful. Milliner started a round which went along the three-quarter line, but without adding to the visitors' territory. Good footwork continued to be the order, and Loveridge fielded, but essayed to run when tackled in possession, dropping the ball. R. James secured, and he had a clear run in, but he imitated the Gloucester captain in dropping the leather, and a splendid chance was missed.

The ball kept amongst the home backs for a time until an opening was made for Fellows, who, however, failed to take his pass, and Gloucester were again saved. The closing stages were fought out with great vigour. Gloucester struggled hard to increase their lead, and Cheltenham strove just as vigorously to get on level terms. Nothing further, however, was scored, Gloucester winning by a try to nil.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 1 try (3 points)
CHELTENHAM Nil

COMMENTS

A very strenuous game. As the state of the ground necessitated, it was confined largely to the forwards, who were very evenly matched both in the tight and in the loose work. On the run of the play, a draw would perhaps have been a fairer result.

Each side had chances which they failed to utilise. The conditions not allowing a good handling movement, it is difficult to say which was the better of the respective back divisions. David and Loveridge were the most prominent amongst the Gloucester three-quarters, and Vaughan and Hart, among the home three-quarters. Each side was well served by its full back, the palm, however, going to Boughton. Milliner was the pick of the halves.

GLOUCESTER A v. BROMSGROVE

VISITORS BEATEN BY TWENTY CLEAR POINTS

Gloucester A had attractive opponents for their second home match of the season at Kingsholm this afternoon, when Bromsgrove were the visitors. Bromsgrove turned up with 14 men, and Voyce, of Stroud, made up their team.

Gloucester made several last-minute changes, S. Spiers taking the place of H. Pitt, and E. Spiers coming in for R. Holford in the forward line. Holford took S. R. Crowther's place in the three-quarters.

Teams : –

Gloucester A. – G. Thomas; A. Hough, F. Benbow, V. Whiting, and R. Holford; E. Goodwin and L. Abbey; A. Rea (capt.), S. Spiers, G. Foulkes, E. Spiers, T. Hiam, C. Hatton, L. Franklin, and T. Field.

Bromsgrove. – Tierney; Rushton, Salmon, Thomas, and Watts; Griffin and Mitchell; Drury, Duns, Fairclough, Bagnall, Collett, Verne, Taylor, and Voyce.

The rain severely affected the attendance, and only a few spectators were present when Gloucester kicked off. Gloucester made ground on the right, but were penalised when going strong. From the scrum Bromsgrove broke away and with some splendid footwork carried play to the home 25. Good tackling on the part of the home defence, however, stemmed the attack.

Gloucester returned play to the other end, and after they had been penalised for off-side Halford ran over for a try, which Benbow converted.

The visitors were using their feet to advantage, but were much inferior in the scrum, and the home three-quarters made some splendid runs. The rain had rendered the ground slippery, with the result that many mistakes were made.

The Gloucester forwards were frequently prominent with some good bursts through, and play had only been in progress twenty minutes when the home side went further ahead. This time Hough was the scorer. He secured possession about 20 yards from the line, and after a splendid run in which he beat four men dashed over near the corner. The goal kick failed.

The home side continued to dominate the game, and play was waged for the most part near the visitors' line. It was not surprising, therefore, that they should go further ahead, Hough again being the scorer. Benbow failed to convert.

With a lead of 11 points the City Seconds eased up a little, but it was only fine tackling on the part of the visitors that the home score was kept down.

Half-time :

Gloucester A 1 goal, 2 tries
Bromsgrove Nil

Bromsgrove showed improvement in the second half and managed to hold their own for some time. Off-side, however, spoiled many of their movements. Gloucester gradually got the upper hand, and several times nearly got over, but they held the ball too long and were tackled in possession when a pass might have made all the difference. They were also liable to pick up too much when a dribble would have been more advantageous.

Bromsgrove were twice penalised for off-side, and Gloucester should have increased their lead, but both kicks were sent wide. Abbey was sending his three-quarters away in good style, but the latter kept a little too close and were frequently tackled when going strong. After 25 minutes, in a strong forward rush Franklin succeeded in crossing the visitors' line. The goal kick failed.

Play had hardly been resumed when Abbey put Gloucester further ahead with an unconverted try. The visitors made several good attempts to transfer play to the home 25, but try as they would they could not get beyond the half-way line. Some of their play was certainly praiseworthy, but they lacked the understanding and finish of the home side. Just before the finish Hiam scored another try.

Result :

Gloucester A 1 goal, 5 tries (20 pts.)
Bromsgrove Nil

COMMENTS

Gloucester were the superior side in every department and but for becoming a little too eager and getting off-side would have won by a much larger margin.

Thomas played a clever game at full back and frequently found touch with some good kicks. Abbey also did some good things but his passes were not too well judged.

The home backs showed up well in several fine movements, but they, as was the case with the forwards, showed a tendency to hold on to the ball too long, with the result that they were frequently tackled in possession, when a transfer would have made all the difference. Still, considering the conditions, the team played an excellent all-round game.

The visitors, though at times outplayed, showed plenty of pluck and were a lively force when they really did get going. This, however, was so infrequent, that they did not cause much anxiety.

JC