

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1933

GLOUCESTER 18 Pts., SALE 7 Pts.

CITY OPEN HOLIDAY GAMES WITH BRILLIANT WIN

CHESHIRE CHAMPIONS WELL BEATEN IN POINTS

SHEPPARD SCORES TWO GREAT TRIES

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

GLOUCESTER opened their holiday programme at Kingsholm against Sale, one of the leading North clubs, who came with the splendid record of 22 wins, 7 defeats and 2 drawn games, and an aggregate of 566 points for and 298 against.

The visitors, who are on tour, were strongly represented at three-quarter, the line being composed of Claude Davey and W. Wooller (the Welsh Internationals), A. J. Croston (Army), and H. S. Sever (English trial).

Unfortunately Gloucester were unable to field full strength, the absentees including C. C. Tanner, and J. C. Brooks (the brilliant right wing pair), and P. Horden and Ivor Williams (forwards) – four players who have been greatly distinguished for the City in the past two months.

Tanner tore a ligament in a scratch game during the week, and will not be able to play again this season.

With Grahame Powker finished with football owing to the near approach of the opening of the cricket season, and R. McKay on vacation, Gloucester had the assistance of A. R. Brookes, a former player now resident in Reading. T. Hiam and J. Clift filled the two vacant positions in the back row of the forwards.

The Kingsholm ground was naturally on the hard side after the long spell of fine weather, but the playing pitch had few bare patches.

During the morning the ground was well watered, and looked in fine condition for fast, open rugby.

A splendid holiday crowd, between 4,000 and 5,000 gave the visitors a hearty reception, the teams lining up as follows : –

GLOUCESTER.

BACK: H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS: A. E. Brookes, F. G. Edwards, G. R. James, and W. V. Sheppard.

HALF-BACKS: C. Fifield and Don Meadows.

FORWARDS: F. Wadley (capt.), A. D. Carpenter, E. Comley, K. Smith, R. Morris, A. Welshman, J. Clift, and T. Hiam.

SALE.

BACK: T. Hart.

THREE-QUARTERS: H. S. Sever, C. Davey, A. J. Croston, and W. Wooller.

HALF-BACKS: G. C. Noden and P. G. Street.

FORWARDS: W. F. Scott (capt.), L. D. Wheeldon, N. M. Cookson, R. U. Reynolds, F. Akister, C. G. Seddon, F. S. Crossland, and H. D. Morton.

Referee: Mr. R. Hanks (Bristol).

THE GAME

Sale started and prevented a return, but Gloucester quickly relieved with a passing bout, Edwards kicking to touch nicely. In the first minute, James went off, and Hiam was brought out to three-quarter.

SALE'S EARLY SCORE

The visitors attacked strongly, and Gloucester were hard pressed. Meadows relieved with useful punts, but the City were again forced on the defensive. Ten yards out Meadows essayed a long pass out which was missed, and WOOLLER picking up, brushed Brookes aside and scored a good try. The same player failed to convert.

James reappeared with a bandaged hand, and Gloucester by the aid of a penalty, reached the Sale 25. The visitors at once came away, and Brookes being tackled in possession, Sever took the ball from him, and brought off a powerful run. He looked a certain scorer, but Meadows got back and effected a fine tackle, Sever just touching the corner flag before touching down.

BOUGHTON LEVELS SCORE

Sale had the better of play on the restart, the backs handling cleverly and keeping the game open. Wooller and Sever were very prominent, and took a lot of pulling down. Big kicking by Boughton eased the pressure for Gloucester, and later the visitors were penalised for off-side. Boughton took a shot for goal from the 25-line, and with a lovely kick landed a goal, placing the sides level.

FAST PLAY

Sale restarted with a fine burst of bright passing which led to a sharp attack on the City line. Gloucester's defence, however, held out. Play was exceptionally fast, both teams giving the ball air. The visitors, however, handled the cleaner and with more speed, and always looked the more dangerous.

A well-judged punt by Sever put play in the home half, but a neat effort by Brookes was carried on by Comley, whose pass, however, went astray. A penalty fell to Gloucester, and Boughton had another place for goal, but the distance was too great.

SHEPPARD'S GREAT TRY

Wooller received and with a big kick found touch at the centre. Gloucester twice got their backs going, but the marking was too close. James, with smart work, sent play to the Sale half, where Meadows fed SHEPPARD.

The right wing was partly tackled by three different men in succession but he shook himself free on each occasion, and with a brilliant burst at the finish touched down in the corner for a grand try. Boughton missed the goal kick, but Gloucester had secured the lead.

Resuming, Gloucester were soon on the attack again. James, receiving an inside pass from Meadows, brought off a sensational run, going up to Hart in fine style. But there was no one in immediate attendance, and he was brought down.

LOVELY DROPPED GOAL

Immediately the City were off again on the left. James and Brookes interpassing cleverly.

Finally JAMES turned inside, and with a beautiful drop kick covered the cross-bar, giving Gloucester another four points.

Play continued to be contested at a very fast pace, with Gloucester holding the advantage. Wooller, however, shone in a great run for 40 yards before he was forced to pass. Clift ran back for Gloucester in good style but his pass was not taken.

Sale took up the attack, and a movement on the left promised until Wooller sent forward to Croston. The visitors had the better of the exchanges to the interval.

HALF-TIME :

Gloucester...2 goals (1d. 1p.) 1 try.
Sale.....1 try.

Sale had played well up to reputation and had shown delightful open football. The forwards were beaten in the scrums, but behind Wooller and Sever were a dangerous pair in attack, and caused frequent trouble.

Sheppard's try was one of the best, and James' dropped goal a clever effort.

COMLEY INJURED

James was absent when the game was restarted, Hiam again deputising on the wing, Sheppard playing inside three-quarter. It was only a few minutes, however, before the vice-captain appeared. Sale were the first to open out, but the passing went astray.

Boughton marked from a high punt from Street, but the Gloucester players were in front of the ball when the kick was taken, and a scrum followed. Sale were aggressive on the right, but Sever was well stopped. Comley was laid out in a rush, and had to be carried off, Gloucester continuing with seven forwards.

The City, despite this handicap, showed up strongly, Sheppard bringing off a strong run. The forwards improved with sharp loose rushes, and Sale were pressed. Fumbling by the visiting backs nearly ended in disaster, Gloucester going very close. James was just beaten by Wooller in the corner.

GLOUCESTER FURTHER AHEAD.

Gloucester maintained the pressure, but the defence was excellent. Wooller once stopped Sheppard when the latter was in full stride, thus saving a possible score. Comley had now returned to the game.

Edwards put the City close with a nice touch-finding, and from a scrum just inside the 25, a visiting wing forward was penalised for palpable obstruction. Boughton took the place and kicked another fine goal.

SALE IN DANGER

Gloucester continued to have the better of the exchanges, the forwards working splendidly together. From a cross-kick by James, Edwards followed up and tackled Davey in possession. The ball was dropped and the Sale line was in danger. Hart, however, recovered at the critical moment.

Sale, so far this half, had been outplayed until a combined movement was well finished off by Croston, the latter punting over Boughton's head, but Gloucester got back and saved, and Boughton cleared nicely. Splendid kicking by James put Gloucester beyond midfield, and the City worked hard to keep their position. Edwards, and James again, were prominent, Hart saving by making his mark.

GLORIOUS TRY BY SHEPPARD

The play showed no slacking off in keenness, Sale redoubling their efforts to add to their score. But the City were equally desperate and the tackling was immense. Sale gained a footing in the home half for a brief period, but Gloucester moved ahead. At the centre Fifield served Meadows, who slipped an inside pass to Sheppard, who was playing centre now.

With a tremendous burst of speed, Sheppard cleared Davey and rounding Hart finished a glorious run by scoring behind the posts. Boughton converted and Gloucester led by 18-3.

DROPPED GOAL FOR SALE

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. . . splendid work during the periods when a man short. The tackling for the most part was close and sure, and they aided the backs appreciably in checking aggressive moves by Sale. The regulars were all in top-top form, and Hiam and Clift deputised very creditably for Horden and Williams.

CLEVER BACK DIVISIONS

Outside the scrum there was a lot of excellent work both individually and collectively. Sale's form at the outset commanded admiration, and Sever and Wooller were very dangerous with powerful bursts; while Noden and Street shaped well at half-back. Gloucester's marking was of the best, but an occasional risky pass when on the defence nearly let the side down.

Sale's handling for a period was the more accurate and speedy, but the City excelled with some bright interludes, in which all the players shone at intervals. Sheppard ran with great determination, and showed fine speed in rounding the full-back when scoring his second try. James was handicapped with a damaged hand sustained in the first minute, but he got through a lot of clever work, and his dropped goal was a beauty from a difficult angle.

Edwards and Brookes rendered useful assistance, the former doing especially well in defence and relief kicking. Fifield and Meadow set up a good understanding, and the latter displayed extreme cleverness in making openings. Boughton's successful goal kicking added appreciably to the points, and he had a fine match.

WOOLLER AND SEVER

Sale's combination behind at times reached a high standard, and Wooller and Sever were both difficult to bring down. The former, too, did some deadly tackling when the situation was a critical one for the visitors. Davey was not seen to any great advantage, but Croston suggested possibilities in attack given the desired opportunities. Hart fielded well, and was very sound under pressure.

Next week: Gloucester v. London Welsh (Monday) ; Gloucester v. Halifax (Tuesday) ; seven-a-side tournament, Thursday and Saturday.