

THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1904.

FOOTBALL.

TO-MORROW'S MATCHES.

GLOUCESTER v. NORTHAMPTON.

At Northampton. The following are the selected teams : —

GLOUCESTER		NORTHAMPTON
G. Romans (capt.)	Backs.	C. Leigh
L. Vears	Three-quarter	W. H. Kingston
J. Stephens	backs.	H. E. Kingston
J. Harrison	"	H. Palmer
T. Leonard	"	F. Coles
D. Gent	Half-Backs.	H. C. Palmer
C. H. Robinson	"	T. H. Preston
F. Goulding	Forwards.	R. West (capt.)
B. Parham	"	J. Mason
A. Hawker	"	A. J. Hobbs
A. Purton	"	H. B. Follett
G. H. Smith	"	G. Burke
W. Johns	"	L. H. Johnson
G. Vears	"	F. Nurser
G. Matthews	"	A. J. Turner

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1904.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

RUGBY.

GLOUCESTER v. NORTHAMPTON.

CITY TEAM IN THE EAST MIDLANDS.

A DISAPPOINTING EXHIBITION.

For their first out match Gloucester had rather a stiff task set them in meeting Northampton, for the East Midlanders are always a particularly strong side to dispose of on their own ground. The City team, however, have generally done well against the Saints, and last season put on the respectable score of 16 points to nil, a result fully in keeping with the run of the games.

Last week Northampton were beaten by Bedford after a keen contest, but the Saints were off their usual game, and were expected to make a much better show to-day.

Gloucester had an excellent practice match at the expense of the Old Edwardians for their opening fixture, and, with few changes in the constitution of the side which made the journey to Northampton, the prospects of victory were decidedly rosy.

"Whacker" Smith and F. Oswald had to stand down owing to injuries, and the team was made up by the inclusion of T. Leonard and A. Purton, the former appearing in the City's ranks for the first time as a regular member of the Club.

The following were the teams : —

GLOUCESTER.		NORTHAMPTON.
G. Romans (capt.)	Backs.	C. Leigh
L. Vears	Three-quarter	W. H. Kingston
J. Stephens	backs.	H. E. Kingston
J. Harrison	"	H. Palmer
T. Leonard	"	F. Coles
D. Gent	Half-Backs.	H. C. Palmer
C. H. Robinson	"	T. H. Preston
F. Goulding	Forwards.	R. West (capt.)
B. Parham	"	J. Mason
A. Hawker	"	A. J. Hobbs
A. Purton	"	H. B. Follett
G. H. Smith	"	G. Burke
W. Johns	"	L. H. Johnson
G. Vears	"	F. Nurser
G. Matthews	"	A. J. Turner

After a wet morning the weather turned out fine, and there was a large crowd of spectators. Gloucester losing the toss, Goulding kicked off, and the exchange of kicks left the game at the centre.

The home forwards heeled from the first scrum, and Preston initiated a bout of passing. All the backs handled, and W. Kingston put the finishing touches to a magnificent movement by scoring in the corner. The goal-kick failed.

Resuming, even play followed in the Gloucester half, Northampton putting in some splendid work. A forward rush took the ball past Romans, and Stephens fielding the ball under his goal punted out. W. Kingston came along and, gathering neatly, slipped an opponent and dropped a clever goal, giving Northampton a seven points' lead. This success of the home team was received with great enthusiasm.

Following the re-start Gloucester gained a footing in their opponents' end, but H. C. Palmer clean beat the City third line but fell on reaching Romans – a lucky escape for the visitors.

Ensuing play was keenly fought out in Gloucester territory, the City forwards being overwhelmed at times. Gent eventually changed the venue with a smart movement, and Harrison took the ball to Leigh, who was pulled down. A big punt sent the ball to Romans, who failed to stop it going to touch.

Immediately after a loose forward rush took the ball over the line, and Romans touched down. On the drop-out operations were contested at midfield, being fast and keen. Penalty kicks followed to either side, but little advantage accrued. So far the Gloucester forwards had been badly beaten in scrum work. In the lines-out, too, Northampton had the pull.

The East Midlanders forced another minor as the result of a kick over the line, and for the next few minutes Northampton had nearly all the game. Passing by the home backs looked promising, but Harrison intercepted and broke clear to Leigh. He apparently had his man beaten, but passed, and the ball was lost. The visitors were penalised just after, and Northampton cleared to midfield, where the City tried passing, but Leonard was unable to travel far.

Centre play ensued till H. C. Palmer dodged through cleverly, and reached Romans with a good opening, but the transfer was knocked on. Northampton continued to have the best of matters, and brilliant combination only just failed to pierce the Gloucester defence. The City team appeared unable to get going, and they were pressed continually.

L. Vears gained temporary relief, but the Northampton forwards rushed back immediately, and play hovered on the Gloucester 25. The home forwards were going great guns, and kept up a splendid pace. Romans was called upon to save a dangerous rush, which he did effectually, and then Leonard punted to touch beyond the centre. Soon afterwards the interval arrived.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Northampton 1 goal (d), 1 try
Gloucester Nil

Northampton re-started, and after a spell of even play at centre Robinson tried to open up the game, but nothing resulted. A dash by Tim Kingston caused Gloucester some trouble, but a knock on spoiled a possible chance. A mistake by the City enabled Northampton to get very close, but the defence prevailed, and Harrison eventually touched down.

From the drop-out Gloucester took up the running, Goulding and Gent being prominent. Desperate work ensued on the Northampton line, but the City could not cross. The home halves were penalised for off-side play, but Romans missed a goal from the fairly easy position. The kick out was splendidly returned by Gent, who found touch close to the home line.

Preston punted out to Romans, who ran round but passed forward to Harrison, and ground was lost. Gloucester, however, got on the attack immediately after, and Harrison had a drop for goal, but failed in the attempt. Gloucester were doing better now, and kept Northampton busy, but the attack lacked sting. Romans had another shot for goal from a penalty, but a fine effort from the touch-line went wide of the post.

After this the Northampton backs exhibited some neat exchanges, and H. Palmer made a good run, but was held up. A beautiful kick by Gent under difficulties placed Gloucester well inside their opponents' half, but they were quickly sent back. A fine individual effort by Follitt[sic] was well stopped by Romans, but the ball getting loose Northampton tried hard to effect a score. They were, however, beaten off, and useful play by Harrison conveyed the game to the other end.

A splendid run by W. Kingston gave Northampton the advantage, and a sharp attack on the Gloucester line was only saved in the nick of time. Gent twice gained a lot of ground by clever kicks, but the visitors were kept well outside the quarter flag. Play was nothing like so interesting now, being principally a scramble forward. Gloucester gradually assumed the upper hand, but the attack lacked finish. Near the 25 Robinson sent out a sharp transfer to Gent, who ran a few yards and then, taking deliberate aim, dropped a smart goal from a difficult angle.

Resuming, play was fast and furious. Northampton played up vigorously, Gloucester, however, defended well. They lost a lot of ground by off-side play when there were good chances of scoring, and profiting by this Northampton reached the centre.

In the last minute Romans made a bad mistake, running round and passing instead of kicking, with the result that the ball was snapped up by H. Palmer, who ran in unopposed behind the posts. The place-kick failed, and then no-side was called.

RESULT :

Northampton	1 goal (d) 2 tries (10 points)
Gloucester	1 goal (d) (4 points)

REMARKS.

Gloucester's show to-day was disappointing, and they were undoubtedly beaten by a better team. Northampton's work at the start and all through the first half was brilliant, the forwards and the backs proving far too smart for the City team. In packs especially Gloucester could make no headway, and at heeling they were beaten continually.

The opening scores by W. Kingston were beautifully worked for, and Gent's dropped goal was very cleverly obtained. The last try, however, was fairly given away.

Gent worked heroically behind the forwards who were worsted in most phases of play, but Robinson was not a success, and was outwitted again and again by Preston and H. C. Palmer.

At three-quarter Gloucester had comparatively little to do in attack, though Harrison tried hard to get through once or twice. The tackling at times was very weak. The Kingstons and Palmer frequently slipped through the defence.

Romans had heaps to do, and on the whole he satisfactorily performed his duties, but that mistake at the finish spoiled his display.

The forwards appeared to labour on the heavy ground, and never seemed wound up. Individually, Goulding, Hawker, Parham, and Matthews were seen to the best advantage, but the display as a whole fell below expectations.

Northampton played a fine game, and on the day's play well deserved their victory.

JC