

THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1904.

FOOTBALL.

TO-MORROW'S MATCHES.

GLOUCESTER v. BATH.

At Gloucester.

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	BATH.
G. Romans	Backs.	G. Parfitt
C. Smith	Three-quarter	F. Smith
E. Hall	backs.	R. Meister
W. Hyam	"	G. Parsons
W. Smith	"	T. West
A. Hall	Half-Backs.	W. Curtis
H. Smith	"	A. N. Other
W. Johns (capt.)	Forwards.	T. B. Timmins (capt.)
B. Parham	"	F. Cashnella
G. Vears	"	W. Watts
F. Pegler	"	R. Hulbert
H. Quixley	"	V. Hickery
J. Jewell	"	P. J. Cooling
H. Collins	"	C. Brown
R. R. Sly	"	C. Dyer

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1904.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. BATH.

WEAK CITY TEAM SUCCESSFUL.

The County match at Bristol weakened Gloucester considerably for their fixture with Bath at Kingsholm, substitutes having to be called upon to fill the places of Harrison, Hudson, Stephens, Hawker, and Matthews, whilst Gent was also absent, taking part in the final Welsh trial at Neath.

Bath only had one player (White) in the selected Somerset team, as J. T. Timmins, though a Bathonian, regularly appears for the London Welsh. The weather was fine, with a breeze blowing across the ground. There was not a large crowd.

The teams were as follows : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	BATH.
G. Romans	Backs.	G. Parfitt
C. Smith	Three-quarter	F. Smith
E. Hall	backs.	R. Meister
W. Hyam	"	G. Parsons
W. Smith	"	T. West
A. Hall	Half-Backs.	W. Curtis
H. Smith	"	A. W. Wood
W. Johns (capt.)	Forwards.	T. B. Timmins (capt.)
B. Parham	"	F. Cashnella
G. Vears	"	W. Watts
F. Pegler	"	R. Hulbert
H. Quixley	"	V. Hickery
J. Jewell	"	P. J. Cooling
H. Collins	"	C. Brown
R. R. Sly	"	C. Dyer

THE GAME.

The Bath men, who looked a heavy team, defended the Dean's Walk end, and failing to return the kick-off, the visitors were soon defending. The halves, however, quickly gained ground, and Romans was called upon, but he was safe, and replied to touch. Hall broke through cleverly, and Johns carried it on with a short dribble, but Parfitt saved nicely, and the Bathonians centred play.

Wood set Curtis in motion, and the visiting third line gained ground, but the last transfer went astray, and the movement was checked, but not before Bath had gained a footing in the home 25.

Bath again tried passing, but not much ground was gained. However, a moment later, Curtis ran across, and gave to F. Smith, who punted across. "Whacker" Smith received, but was immediately collared and rushed over his own line. A scrum five yards out was ordered, and a touch-down resulted. Bath claimed a mark, which gained a good slice of ground, and the visitors attacked hotly.

Bath got the ball in the scrum, but the Gloucester forwards broke up quickly and gained a few yards by a telling rush. Hall was very slow in getting rid of the ball a moment later, and Wood, intercepting his pass, looked dangerous, but he was upset. Bath continued to keep up the pressure, and Romans was forced to again touch down.

By the aid of good forward work, Gloucester carried the game to the other end, and H. Smith passed out to Hyam, who in turn handed to Cinderford Smith on the wing. The latter made ground, and then passed back neatly inside, and Hyam scored in the corner. Romans failed at goal.

On the re-start Hall ran smartly, but his pass to Hyam was too low for the latter to take, and the ball went into touch. Centre play followed for some time.

Gloucester quickly got down again, but an exchange of kicks ended in the ball getting amongst the Bath three-quarters, who took the game to the other end. Several hotly contested scrums followed, and then Hall broke away beautifully, and dribbled to the Bath quarter flag. From the ensuing line-out, Parsons punted up the field, and again the centre was the venue.

The Bath men were smarter on the ball in the loose just now, and carried the ball again into Gloucester territory. Hyam, however, cleared

with a good kick, but the ground thus gained was quickly lost by a clever run by Meister. Two Bath men in quick succession tried a drop at goal, but in each instance the kick was charged down.

"Whacker" Smith and Hall were prominent with a pretty bit of work on the touch line. Gloucester rushed down, and "Whacker" Smith made some ground with a good run. He could not, however, get past Parfitt, who collared him. E. Hall picked up quickly, however, and got over under the posts. Romans goaled.

Parsons, West, and Meister shared in a pretty movement on the re-start, and the Gloucester line was threatened. The ball got out to Hyam, however, who put in a tremendous punt right down to the Bath 25, Parfitt missing badly. Bath worked back to the centre, where Parson was prominent.

The character of the football at this point was somewhat scrambling, but Bath were driven back on to their line. Parfitt effected a clearance with a good kick, and half-time was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 goal, 1 try
Bath	Nil

On re-starting, Hyam was prominent by taking a pass cleverly from Hall, but the latter's transfer was not accepted, and the Bath third line again showed up passing. F. Smith beat W. Smith cleverly, but the latter got after him again and collared him from behind when just near the line.

Bath pressed and were awarded a free kick, but Wood's attempt was charged down. The visitors kept up the pressure, but eventually Vears headed a forward rush which took the ball to the centre. From here a big kick sent the ball up the field, and a rare race for possession ensued. Parfitt missed the ball, but W. Smith and Hall overran themselves, and the visitors just managed to save – a near thing.

Bath were penned after this, but Wood brought relief with a timely punt, and the same player again showed up well a moment later. The Bath men were getting the ball more often in the scrum just now, and their halves electing to punt instead of pass, they repeatedly made ground. Gloucester, however, got back, and "Whacker" Smith, claiming a mark, gained further advantage for his side. The forwards carried it on, and the Bath 25 was again the scene of operations.

Gloucester made progress from the line-out, and Parham receiving from a long throw-out, passed to Hyam, but the latter's transfer to the wing went a-begging. Cinderford Smith was badly fouled, and a free awarded, Romans just failing to cover the bar at long range. The Bath forwards dribbled away smartly from a line-out, but Romans picked up and found touch.

It was getting dusk now, and difficult to distinguish individual players. Bath got down dangerously near the home line, and attacked hotly for a time. A kick was charge down, and the ball went over the line. Two Bath men were quickly on it, and touched down, but they were over the dead-ball line. Romans put in a fine kick for the drop-out, but a moment later he was laid out, being charged as he kicked. He quickly resumed, however.

Some stiff work by the rival forwards followed at the centre, and then Romans again put in a good touch-finder. From this point Gloucester got away, but the Bath men broke away cleverly. West got possession and made a lot of ground, and good work between him and Meister ended in Cashnella scoring behind the posts. Wood kicked a goal.

Gloucester were quickly in the Bath 25 again, but F. Smith, on the Bath right, got away on his own, but when confronted by Romans he essayed a pass which was not taken, a certain score being averted. The right wing was again in evidence shortly after, but again a bad pass spoilt a possible opening. The game was contested with great keenness to the end, which was called six or eight minutes before time owing to the darkness.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)

Bath 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS.

Considering the very weak team that Gloucester had doing duty, they may be complimented on having come successfully out of the afternoon's engagement. There were many supporters of the home team who, taking into consideration Bath's fine form against Cheltenham and Bristol, were prepared to see Gloucester beaten, but happily the side rose to the occasion, and although the margin was only three points in their favour, they thoroughly deserved to win.

They won solely by pressing their advantage home, for, with possibly two exceptions, they had only the two chances of scoring, which they accepted. On the other hand, Bath were repeatedly pressing, and several times had the home defence tied-up, but they lacked the requisite finesse to turn their opportunities into tangible results, and were consequently forced to take second place.

The try they did score was the outcome of clever play by Smith and Meister, but perhaps Cashnella was somewhat lucky to get possession of the ball from Smith, who was splendidly tackled by Romans and Hyam. Be that as it may, Bath certainly deserved to score in reward for their spirited play. They played the game from start to finish in whole-hearted fashion, and against a less reliable defence would no doubt have run up a good score.

Comparing the teams, the forwards struck one as being fairly evenly matched, although Bath appeared to get possession of the ball more in the scrums in the second moiety. Johns, Vears, Parham, and Jewell, perhaps served their side the better, but there was not much between the eight.

At half, Gent was sadly missed, although A. Hall played a sterling game throughout. H. Smith, his partner, was slow in getting rid of the

ball, but he watched Wood carefully on the other side. The Bath three-quarters were certainly faster than the home quartette, but their passing was ineffective, and they displayed no great cleverness.

For Gloucester, "Whacker" Smith played a good defensive game, and Hyam shone consistently, especially in the kicking department. Cinderford Smith and E. Hall played a sound game, and the former showed smart form on two or three occasions. He should not be lost sight of.

Romans was safe in all he was called upon to do, and the try scored against his side could certainly not be laid to his account. Parfitt did not compare favourably with the home ex-captain. Meister and Parsons, three-quarters, and Timmins and Cashnella, forwards, created the best impression for Bath.

GLOUCESTER A v. NEWPORT A.

BEATEN BY A DROPPED GOAL.

At Newport in dull and threatening weather. In the early stages the homesters asserted themselves. Buckley dropped a neat goal. Charlie Lewis nearly scored after a brilliant effort. Robertson initiated a dangerous movement with a clever dribbling run, but Buckley touched down.

Gloucester combined effectively and placed the Newport line in jeopardy. Watts also did splendid work. Interchange kicking characterised the remaining play up to the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Newport A	1 goal (d)
Gloucester A	Nil

After the interval the Newport backs handled well, Buckley being especially prominent, but Watts was safe. The visiting centres ran and kicked judiciously, thereby gaining much ground.

Smart play by Buckley and Seer enabled Newport to attack. Twice Uzzell ran brilliantly, but was unsupported. Buckley went half, Lewis going to centre. Immediately afterwards Buckley made a magnificent run, but the pass went astray.

Watts repeatedly brought relief to Gloucester with fine kicking.

RESULT :

Newport A 1 goal (d) (4 points)
Gloucester A Nil