

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1904.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

RUGBY.

GLOUCESTER v. NORTHAMPTON.

THE CITY'S LAST MATCH.

A BRILLIANT WIND UP.

This, the concluding match of the season on the Gloucester card, was played at Northampton. The City club were represented by a good side, the only alteration from the advertised team being F. Westbury (forward) for G. H. Smith, who was unable to make the journey. At Kingsholm last month a weak Gloucester team gained a lucky win over the East Midlanders, but the City hoped to do better this afternoon. The teams were : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	NORTHAMPTON.
G. Romans (capt.)	Backs.	C. Leigh
C. Smith	Three-quarter	W. H. Kingston
J. Stephens	Backs.	J. Mason
J. Harrison	"	F. Coles
T. Leonard	"	H. R. Smith
D. Gent	Half-Backs.	H. E. Kingston (capt.)
G. Williams	"	T. H. Preston
B. Parham	Forwards.	A. Chalmers
F. Goulding	"	E. Drage
W. Johns	"	J. Longland
A. Hawker	"	K. Ormsby
F. Pegler	"	L. H. Johnson
A. Purton	"	H. E. T. Vogel
F. Westbury	"	G. G. Yeld
G. Matthews	"	A. G. Hoste

Referee : Mr. F. W. NICHOLLS (Leicester).

Romans started the game and Gloucester immediately attacked, Leigh saving finely and sending to the centre. Stephens ran well, and a penalty against Northampton caused a renewal of the pressure. C. Smith found touch just close to the goal line. A couple of free kicks gave relief, and the Gloucester backs showed nice passing.

The Northampton forwards were luckily placed on side and rushed away, but Romans ran back. Smart passing and clever touch kicking by Gent took play close to the Northampton goal line, where some grand combination by Gloucester ended in Parham scoring behind the posts. Romans' place went just outside.

Northampton attacked strongly, but Romans accorded relief. Yeld nearly scored from a penalty. Gent was applauded for bringing out and running smartly. Harrison, receiving from Stephens, doubled beautifully, scoring behind the posts, Romans majorising.

Williams and Stephens ran strongly on resuming, but Will Kingston intercepted, and saved a certain try.

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

Romans made a grand return to the re-start. Northampton were penalised, but Preston and the Brothers Kingston set up a hot attack on the Gloucester lines, and from a penalty the visitors touched down. Kingston ran well, and Coles dropped at goal, C. Smith touching down.

Gloucester now had a turn, and nearly reached the line. Hawker and Leigh collided, both being knocked out. Leigh quickly resumed, but Hawker was assisted off the field. Romans was cheered for magnificent play, and Leigh obtained a like recognition.

The pace of the game was very fast. Preston and Timkinson[sic] forced Gloucester to their goal line. Romans relieved. Gwent skilfully resisted an attack.

Will Kingston ran down to Romans and the Gloucester forwards broke away. Will Kingston stopped the rush neatly. Both sides did dashing work, and Goulding scored after a dribble, Romans' kick hitting the post.

Stephens scored a lovely try after capital passing, and Romans converted. Northampton made desperate efforts, but failed.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 goals, 2 tries (16 points)

Northampton Nil

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1904.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER'S VICTORY AT NORTHAMPTON.

Our Northampton correspondent writes : Gloucester's victory over Northampton was splendidly worked for, and thoroughly well-earned by meritorious all-round play. From the moment George Romans set the ball going the visitors showed praiseworthy dash and determination.

In the first half they completely outplayed Northampton. The forwards were quicker on the ball; the three-quarters exhibited superior combination; and good as Leigh was at back Romans was better. Indeed it was one of the Gloucester backs' very best days. At half the men were well matched, both pairs showing alertness, resource, and skill.

Gloucester's third try was the result of some admirable short passing, Parham scoring under the posts. Romans just missed the mark;

but he made no mistake when Harrison soon afterwards by doubling and dodging scored the visitors' second point.

Northampton opened the second half in most resolute fashion, and so well did the Brothers Kingston play that danger several times threatened. Then Gloucester lost Hawker, who collided heavily with the Northampton back when he looked almost certain to score. For a brief period after this Gloucester had a little anxiety, but settling down to their work they gradually wore down their opponents.

A misunderstanding between Mason and Leigh let in the Gloucester forwards, who put in a dashing dribble, with a try to Goulding at the end of it. Romans made a fine effort to convert, the ball hitting the upright and falling the wrong side of the cross-bar so far as the attacking side was concerned.

But then followed delightful running and passing three parts the length of the field by the Gloucester backs with Stephens successful in a beautiful effort. Romans majorised, and although Northampton made desperate efforts to score in the last few minutes, the Gloucester defence was sound, and a handsome 16 points' victory wound up the season in grand style for the red and whites.

The Northampton spectators greatly admired the fine play of Gloucester, and they will look forward to another visit from the Westerners with much pleasurable interest.