

# THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1904.

## FOOTBALL.

### TO-MORROW'S MATCHES.

#### GLOUCESTER v. DEVON ALBION.

At Kingsholm (kick-off 3 o'clock).

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	DEVON ALBION.
G. Romans (capt.)	Backs.	S. Irvin
C. Smith	Three-quarter	C. Hosking
E. Hall	Backs.	Lieut. Moir
J. Harrison	"	T. Dean
A. Hudson	"	J. Ferguson
J. Stephens	Half-Backs.	T. Jago
D. R. Gent	"	J. Sommers
W. Johns	Forwards.	W. Spiers (capt.)
B. Parham	"	F. W. C. Coles
A. Hawker	"	F. Cummings
F. Pegler	"	D. Coombs
G. Vears	"	W. Mills
H. Quixley	"	J. Powell
G. Matthews	"	F. Bracken
F. Westbury	"	C. Edwards

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

Mr. Walter George, the old Gloucester captain, writes us that the Albion side is a little unsettled. Two forwards were knocked out on Saturday, and in a mid-week match with the Naval College, Hosking and Dean (three-quarters) were injured.

It is hoped Hosking will be fit, but Dean is not expected to play. His place will be filled by Powell-John[sic]. Lieut. Roberts, the International forward, is also unable to assist.

"A follower of the Gloucester Club for 24 years" writes as follows :

"I saw the Albion play the R.N.E. College a few weeks ago. It was a very fine exhibition of football indeed, robust without being rough. The Albion forwards are a big lot, clever and fast, and the Gloucester eight will have to be in tip-top form and condition. Jago is a clever scrum worker, and Summers proves a splendid partner for him. The three-quarters are a good level lot; the centres cut through, and the wings are fast. Irvin is one of the best backs in England.

'But lumping this altogether I don't see why Gloucester should not give them a good game, say a draw; or if they would only play a little bit better than when they met Swansea it would mean a win; which is what we all want."

GLOUCESTER A v. NAUNTON PARK.

At Cheltenham (train 1.55 p.m., G.W.R.)

Gloucester A : J. Watts, back; H. Hughes, W. Hyam, H. Cook, and T. Curtis, three-quarter backs; C. H. Robinson and H. Smith, half-backs; F. Pyart (captain), H. Taylor, A. Purton, A. White, H. Wixey, C. Voyce, R. Wright, and H. Lane, forwards.

**THE CITIZEN**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1904.**

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. DEVON ALBION.

ENGLISH CHAMPIONS AT KINGSHOLM.

## SPLENDIDLY-CONTESTED GAME.

### GLOUCESTER RISE TO A GREAT OCCASION.

### A POINTLESS DRAW.

For this important fixture at Kingsholm, Gloucester were able to place a representative side in the field. J. Stephens, who has been out of the team for a couple of weeks, made a welcome re-appearance, and Hawker was again available.

T. Leonard, who has not been the success anticipated at wing three-quarter, was given a rest, and the third line was re-organised, "Whacker" Smith going back to his old position, and E. Hall partnering Harrison in the centre.

The Albion were short of Hosking (three-quarter) and Williams (forward), but Lieut. Roberts, who was doubtful, was able to make the journey.

The weather turned out bright, but the attendance at the time of the kick-off was only moderate.

The teams were as follows : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	DEVON ALBION.
G. Romans (capt.)	Backs.	S. Irvin
C. Smith	Three-quarter	? Jose
E. Hall	backs.	Lieut. Moir
J. Harrison	"	T. Dean
A. Hudson	"	J. Ferguson
J. Stephens	Half-Backs.	T. Jago
D. R. Gent	"	J. Summers
W. Johns	Forwards.	W. Spiers (capt.)
B. Parham	"	F. W. C. Coles

A. Hawker	"	F. Cummings
F. Pegler	"	D. Coombs
G. Vears	"	W. Mills
H. Quixley	"	J. Powell
G. Matthews	"	F. Bracken
F. Westbury	"	Lieut. Roberts

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

### THE GAME.

Owing to the colours of the rival clubs being similar, the Gloucester players appeared in new jerseys – red and blue.

The Albion won the toss, and Hawker kicked off to Irvin, who replied to Romans, the latter finding touch just over the centre. The visitors early put in a bout of passing, but Moir failed to take from Jago, and Harrison dribbled through nicely. Westbury took up the running and sent to Irvin, who kicked to touch in his 25.

The Albion worked out a few yards down touch, but Hawker regained with a useful burst from a throw-out. The Albion forwards heeled cleverly and Jago fed Summers, who passed to Dean. The latter punted down to Romans, and Jose racing up tried to field, but knocked on. Westbury, with a loose kick, sent the game back to the Albion quarter, where the Gloucester forwards got away with a loose rush. They, however, lost the ball, and Jose was allowed to pick up, and ran to past mid-field, where he was upset.

Clever combination by the Albion half-backs gained ground, and once Summers punted nicely. Hudson, however, fielded nicely, and got in a good screw-kick to Irvin, who punted over the line, Romans touching down.

Following the drop-out the City forwards showed up with a sharp burst, and Stephens further improved matters with a nice kick to touch. From the line-out the home forwards secured and rushed down to Irvin, who was collared on the line. The Albion were in a desperate position,

but the forwards, carrying a scrum, worked out, only to be stopped by a daring save by Hawker.

A faulty pass by Smith was intercepted by Dean, standing yards in front of the scrum, but the infringement passed unnoticed, and the Albion got out of danger. Gloucester, however, returned to the attack with a passing movement, but Harrison was floored. Some scrambling play ensued in which Albion were penalised. Romans took a shot for goal, but the ball fell short, and Irvin punted clear.

Hawker was twice prominent with powerful punts, and on the second occasion Irvin was pulled down with the ball in his possession. Another free fell to Gloucester, but Romans' kick failed to find touch. Westbury, with a smart bit of play in the open, gained applause, but so far the game was lacking in finish.

After a spell of even play Stephens secured from Gent and passed to Hall, who punted but gained no ground, as Irvin replied to his kick with interest. Smith was conspicuous with a useful punt when closely pressed, and then Harrison sent to touch beautifully in the Albion half. From here the ball got loose, and Hudson, making the best use of an opening, was only checked in time by Ferguson.

The Gloucester forwards were working well together, but Spiers, who was playing outside the scrum, effected a good save. Still, Gloucester kept play well in the Albion quarters, and the defence of the visitors was sorely tested.

At length Jago set his backs in motion, but Dean fumbled. A Gloucester forward picked up and sent to Harrison, who took a left-foot drop at goal, which only just failed to come off. On resuming the Albion were again penalised, Romans making a good attempt to land a goal. The ball fell under the posts, and Spiers ran out cleverly and passed to Irvin, who found touch splendidly beyond mid-field.

The Albion from this point got in a sharp round of passing, and Ferguson dashed down touch and passed back inside, but a forward

transfer was ruled. Gloucester quickly changed the venue, Matthews leading a fine rush, but the Devonians checked the movement. From near the Gloucester 25 the City forwards heeled to Gent, who sent out to Smith. Hall received next, and cut his man cleverly, working out a nice opening for Hudson. The wing man took the ball at full speed and went down touch at a fine pace. Irvin, however, got across in time, and effected a grand tackle.

The Albion, with useful kicks, removed play to the centre, where some keen forward work was witnessed. Once or twice Jago opened out the game, but the passing went astray. A kicking duel between Romans and one or two visitors finally ended in favour of the City captain, the ball rolling to touch in the Albion quarter. Summers here broke away smartly and punted to Romans, who fielded and kicked to Jose, the latter sending to touch near the centre.

The Albion, well served at half, now set up a hot attack, and Summers, with a clever break-away, was nearly through. A moment later the same player took a drop at goal, but the ball hit one of the posts and rebounded into play. Summers fielded again and went over the line, only to be recalled. The Albion, however, kept up the pressure, but the attacks were nipped in the bud. At last Stephens intercepted cleverly and cross-kicked. Hudson raced up and robbed Ferguson, sending a nice pass to Harrison. The latter, however, sent forward with only Irvin to beat. Splendid kicking by Irvin and Romans was applauded, and when the interval arrived play was at the centre.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... Nil  
Devon Albion ..... Nil

Spiers re-started, but there was no return, and the ball getting loose the City forwards rushed away until stopped by Jose. The visitors were penalised for an infringement, Romans finding touch well.

Immediately after Irvin sent to the Gloucester end with a beautiful punt, but Gloucester got out smartly. Gent, however, was penalised for

picking out of the scrum, and the ball was placed for Irvin. The Gloucester forwards, however, charged down amidst applause.

Some fast play followed, but there was a lot of fumbling on both sides when the ball got in the open. Gloucester were doing well, and Stephens, taking a pass from Gent on the blind side, dashed down touch and passed inside to Hawker. The latter was tackled, but managed to let the ball go. It went through several pairs of hands to Harrison, who put in a sharp punt and follow-up. Irvin received, but was smothered, and a scrum ensued on the Devon 25.

Spiers was instrumental in gaining relief, but they failed to get beyond half-way. Here Summers started his third line in motion, but Moir could not break through. The ball getting loose it was kicked to Irvin who cleared under great pressure. Hudson and Vears were both knocked out hereabouts, the latter sustaining a cut on the head. After being bandaged, however, he was able to resume.

From the ensuing scrum Parham picked up and punted high to Irvin, who was floored by the Gloucester forwards under the Albion posts. Gloucester made a great effort to effect a score, and from passing Hudson dashed over in the corner. The applause which greeted the achievement was short-lived, however, the referee's whistle going for a forward transfer. Summers, intercepting a pass from Stephens, gained relief for the Albion, and the ball travelled to the Gloucester end.

The Albion forwards heeled well, and Jago started several bouts of passing. The handling, however, was poor, and Harrison snapping up the ball once cut out a splendid opening. He ran down to Irvin, and beat the coming International cleverly. There appeared every chance of a score, with several men well up, but Harrison made a bad pass at the finish, and the ball was taken by an opponent, who kicked clear.

Play was desperately fast and keen, and the tackling so close that neither side was able to travel far. The Albion were getting slightly the best of matters at this juncture, and they tried their hardest to pierce the defence. Jago, however, was too anxious, and for picking out of the

scrum he got his side penalised. Romans found touch with the kick, and ensuing play was fought out just inside the Gloucester half.

The visitors continually heeled, but Gloucester marked splendidly. Harrison again snapped up a pass, but something went wrong afterwards. However, in the next minute the Gloucester halves got the ball out, and Hall kicked to Irvin, who returned to Romans. The latter replied with a lovely kick to touch, which caused operations to be transferred to the Albion end.

The visitors removed play to mid-field, where Gent, Stephens, Harrison, and Smith combined in some clever work. Harrison received a pass back inside from the wing man, and shook himself clear of a would-be tackler, but he was collared from behind. Stephens just now was charged over rather heavily, but he was able to continue after a short stoppage.

Once having got out of danger Gloucester played up in superb fashion, and the Albion were over-run. In one desperate attack the City team looked all over scorers, but a forward failed to field at the critical moment. The last five minutes were contested under great excitement. Gloucester pressed the Albion under the goal, and the visitors' defence had an anxious time. In some loose play Pegler picked up and took a drop at goal, but the ball went wide.

Resuming, Gloucester returned to the attack, and made great efforts to gain the winning points. Then a most unfortunate incident occurred. Breaking away from a scrum Jago passed to Irvin, who had come up on the outside. The full back after receiving the ball stepped on the touch-line quite a couple of yards – it was palpable to everyone in the grand stand and those in the immediate vicinity. E. J. Vivyan (the touch judge) failed to put up his flag, and Irvin proceeded, passing eventually to Ferguson, who cross-kicked. The situation was ugly, but Gloucester managed to save. The crowd all the time kept up a noisy demonstration at Vivyan, who appealed to the referee. The game was stopped for a couple of minutes, but soon after the re-start the whistle sounded for "no-side."



### RESULT :

Gloucester ..... Nil  
Devon Albion ..... Nil

### REMARKS.

Gloucester possess the happy knack of rising to the occasion, and in sharing honours with the famous Albion team to-day they accomplished a performance which few English clubs could equal. Though short of a couple of their usual players (Williams and Hosking) the Albion have such a host of talent to draw on that the handicap is not felt half so seriously as is the case with Gloucester and other clubs in the district.

To-day's match resembled the game with Swansea in a marked degree. It was fought out with desperate keenness, and right to the end it was anybody's match. On the whole Gloucester just about deserved to gain the verdict, for though the Albion backs were in repeated possession of the ball, thanks to the clever heeling of the forwards, and the extreme smartness of Jago and Summers at half, they rarely looked like scoring. On the other hand, Gloucester just failed to cross the line on two occasions. Hudson did actually get over once, after a remarkable dash, but a forward transfer was given though it must have been a near thing.

From the commencement Gloucester played as though they meant business, and for the greater portion of the first half the City team were on top. The forwards were beaten in getting possession in the scrums, but in every other department the Gloucester eight were quite the equal of their opponents.

Some of the loose rushes were admirably conceived; the men showed cleverness in the lines-out, and except for an occasional miss through tackling too high, the collaring was of the deadliest description. Matthews played a rare game to-day, and was very nearly the best forward on the field. Hawker, Westbury, and Pegler, too, were often noticeable, but the whole pack are deserving of every praise for putting up such an excellent fight. If possible the men should be kept together,

for we fail to see, on to-day's form, where any improvement could be effected.

It was a pity Gent and Stephens were not afforded more opportunities to open up the game, for the men behind showed unmistakeable evidence of being in better form than in any match this season. What the Gloucester couple had to do, however, they did with despatch. Gent watched Jago closely, whilst Stephens proved his usefulness and resource again and again.

Previous to the match we heard this was Stephens' last appearance for the City, but we trust such is not the case.

In Jago and Summers, the Albion have an exceedingly clever pair of half-backs, fully equal to any emergency. The combination between the two was very good, and they did some pretty work. Summers, who stood back, made numerous openings for the third line, but he was badly supported.

To our mind the Albion overdid the passing, whilst Gloucester would have done better if they had gone in for a little more handling. All the Gloucester three-quarters performed with great credit.

"Whacker" Smith, back in his old position on the wing, simply overwhelmed his opponent; Harrison was very nippy and clever at intercepting; Hall showed neatness in everything he did; whilst Hudson combined dash and smartness, especially in going for the line. Hudson's inclusion in the team has certainly been of great benefit to the side, and as he is young he is likely to improve even on his present form.

The Albion's third line was disappointing, Ferguson being the best of the quartet. Dean and Moir were frequently at fault in the centre, and Jose had little chance with "Whacker" Smith in front of him.

The visiting forwards all played a vigorous game, Roberts and Coles being very prominent. Spiers, the ex-Gloucestrian, was often outside the

scrum as emergency man, and in this capacity he rendered useful service.

The full-back play on both sides was particularly fine, Romans challenging comparison with Irvin, who is first favourite for the English team. The Albion custodian effected some wonderful clearances under great pressure, whilst Romans fielded and kicked with splendid judgment.

The touch-line incident in the concluding stages of the game was regrettable, but fortunately Vivyan's error had no bearing on the result of the match.

GLOUCESTER A v. NAUNTON PARK.

At Cheltenham. Naunton played a good game, but were well beaten. Smith dropped a goal for the winners, and Robinson (2), Wixey, and Cook scored tries. Pyart kicked the goal.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 2 goals (1d) 3 tries (18 points)  
Naunton Park ..... Nil

**THE CITIZEN**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1904.**

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. DEVON ALBION.

THE TOUCH-LINE INCIDENT.

E. J. VIVYAN'S EXTRAORDINARY ACCOUNT.

In the "Daily Mail" to-day E. J. Vivyan, one of the "special" football correspondents attached to the paper, and who officiated as touch-judge

in the match at Gloucester, contributes the following extraordinary account : —

'A close game was anticipated, and so it turned out to be. At the start it looked as if Gloucester would win, as they went away with rare dash, and were attacking hard for the first ten minutes. Good kicking by Irvin brought Albion out of their difficulty, and after this the game was much more even, being mainly of a forward character.

First Albion would gain the advantage, and then be driven back by the fine kicks of Romans. Then vice-versa on the other side. At the close of the game the Gloucester forwards became very rough and knock-outs were frequent. Just on time Mr. Nicholls had to take the name of one of their forwards for deliberately striking Coles, causing an injury to the eye. Nothing being scored, a pointless draw was the result.

Coming to the players, Romans and Irvin, the two full-backs, were very good. The former's kicks reached touch more often, but Irvin had far more work to get through. And this he did well. The Gloucester three-quarters were better than Albion's, Hudson and Harrison being very prominent. The halves were very evenly matched. Being a forward game, both packs showed signs of tiring towards the close, and no wonder, as the pace was a cracker.

It was most unfortunate for Albion to practically lose the services of Bracken after the first five minutes. He splintered one of his ribs, and was, therefore, not able to do much in the scrum, although he showed rare pluck in remaining on the field. As I stated before, the Gloucester forwards were very rough towards the close, and Mr. Nicholls did quite right in taking the name of a forward who struck Coles, who was subsequently taken to the Infirmary to have his eye sewn up. Spiers and Mills were the best for the Albion, and Parham, Johns, and Hawker for Gloucester.

A very regrettable incident occurred just on time. Irvin was running down the touch-line at full speed, and a section of the spectators evidently thought he went in touch. I, being the touch-judge, did not

think so, and this raised the ire of the home supporters, who did not fail to make use of very ungentle language towards me. This was not all, as several of them thought that that was not enough, and commenced throwing missiles, which became so serious that I had to speak to the referee, who stopped the game.

It was a pity such a thing occurred, and the officials of the Gloucester Club should find who the spectators are who act so, or they will certainly get their ground liable to suspension for such conduct. Spectators should remember that the touch-judge has a far better chance of seeing when it is touch than those who are quite five yards further back, as was the case on Saturday.'

The report is a gross exaggeration of facts, and the allegations of roughness against the Gloucester players are entirely unfounded. The game was certainly a vigorous one, but quite as many Gloucester players were temporarily knocked out as on the other side.

With regard to the accident to Bracken, who is suffering with an injury to the ribs (how sustained he was unable to state to the ambulance men), he persisted in playing despite a warning as to the consequences given by the ambulance men at the interval.

The Coles' incident was not seen from the Press box. As to the touch-line incident and the subsequent demonstration, Vivyan has brought his powers of imagination into play in a remarkable degree.

There can be no question as to Irvin going over the touch-line several feet at least; in fact he actually knocked against Vivyan once, but the International appeared utterly oblivious to the fact that he was an official on the touch-line, and the game proceeded.

Such a glaring mistake (intentional or otherwise) in full view of the crowd, was bound to raise a hostile demonstration, and Vivyan was vigorously hooted. One or two spectators did jump the wire and walk towards Vivyan, but Messrs. Bingle, Dancey, and other members of the Committee intervened, and nothing occurred.

What kind of missiles were thrown at the International we cannot say; our representative certainly did not observe anything, not even a blade of grass, aimed at the touch-judge.

The sensational "copy" made out of the report by the "Daily Mail" and the prominence given it is likely to do the Gloucester Club incalculable harm unless immediate steps are taken to contradict the statements. Vivyan's action, too, is more than likely to again cause unpleasantness between the two clubs.

#### FROM A SPECTATOR.

"A Constant Member" writes ; "I am sure that all lovers of the game welcome to Kingsholm class teams like Devonport Albion, and all must enjoy such games as the one played on Saturday, but at the same time such evident partisan touch-judging as we were treated to in the above match by the representative of the Albion tends to shake one's belief in the sportsmanlike fairness which we expect, and I am glad to say almost invariably get, in these "gentlemen of the flag."

The ruling of the Albion linesman – who showed a tendency all through to "strike an uneven balance – would pass without comment, but when, unfortunately, towards the close the infringement of an Albion player on the "out play" by a margin variously estimated by those spectators best placed to judge at from one to two yards, take place, I think some notice should be taken, and the question could be fairly asked whether the fond regard for the satisfactory consumption of the absorbing cigarette or the exact position of the players with regard to the touch-line, was most essential to the fair balance of the game at a time when Gloucester certainly had a chance of making a win instead of a draw.

#### A PLYMOUTH VIEW.

The "Football Herald," commenting on the match, says the game was marred by one or two untoward incidents, the most regrettable of which was an unseemly demonstration by the crowd. Elliott Vivyan was on the touch-line, and on one occasion Irvin ran inside the touch-line. In excitement Vivyan ran beside him and did not hoist his flag. This caused a great outburst by a section of the spectators, who loudly hooted. The Gloucester officials intervened.

Vivyan sought the protection of the referee eventually. The mistake might have meant a lot for Gloucester, for it only needed a colleague to accept Irvin's inward kick to score. As it was the ball was knocked on.

Bracken had a rib broken in the first half, and Coles received an injury to an eyelid, though it was not serious.

Gloucester are to be congratulated on having had slightly the better of the game, and on having met the Devonians out of trim.