

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1904.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

RUGBY.

GLOUCESTER v. BRISTOL.

KEEN RIVALS AT THE COUNTY GROUND.

The first of the two fixtures arranged between these old and keen rivals was decided at the County Ground, Bristol, and the meeting, as usual, aroused great interest.

Both clubs possess a striking similarity in their records so far this season, and on paper form there appeared to be little to choose between the teams. Bristol, however, had the advantage of playing at home, and this fact made them slight favourites.

Gloucester had to take the field minus Harrison, Oswell, and L. Vears, the latter being unable to play owing to business considerations, and Oswell and Harrison being on the injured list. Vears' defection enabled the club to give another chance to A. Hudson, who has frequently appeared for the City Club with varying success.

Bristol placed practically full strength out, and with the exception of E. O. Evans, for whom A. Straker appeared, it was identical with the side defeated by Leicester last week.

In connection with the match the Midland Railway Company ran a cheap excursion to Bristol, and the weather being gloriously fine a large crowd availed themselves of the facility afforded to witness what promised to be a close and exciting game.

The teams were : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	BRISTOL.
G. Romans (capt.)	Backs.	J. Oates
A. Hudson	Three-quarter	F. S. Scott
C. Smith	backs.	H. Shewring
E. Hall	"	J. A. Lamond
T. Leonard	"	D. W. Smith
D. R. Gent	Half-Backs.	A. E. Wood
J. Stephens	"	A. Straker
F. Goulding	Forwards.	T. Webb (capt.)
B. Parham	"	J. L. Mathias
G. Smith	"	A. R. Chichester
A. Hawker	"	N. Moore
F. Pegler	"	W. Watsons
G. Vears	"	W. H. Neads
W. Johns	"	H. Thomas
G. Matthews	"	G. Paul

### THE GAME.

The ground was in beautiful condition, and the attendance reached about 5,000. Gloucester won the toss, and Webb kicked off amidst a buzz of excitement.

Exchange kicking left the game in the Gloucester 25, but Gent securing from a scrum passed to Romans, who, with a fine kick, found touch beyond the centre. Bristol were early penalised, but a splendid shot by Romans fell short, and Scott punted out to the quarter line. Some close scrum work followed, ending in Neads kicking down field. Romans, however, cleverly fielded and found touch well.

Good work by Stephens gained Gloucester a lot of ground, and ensuing play was fought out at mid-field. Bristol worked out by the aid of a penalty, and then from passing Douglas Smith dashed up the right wing in great style, but Romans effected a superb tackle.

The home team were in a good position now, but Straker misfielded, and Hall kicked nicely to touch. Gloucester tried some passing, but the handling was too slow, and little ground was gained.

A minute later "Whacker" Smith missed a transfer from Stephens, and Douglas Smith coming along had a beautiful opening, but Romans fetched him down on the line. Gloucester were severely pressed for a few minutes, and at length, after a series of sharp transfers, Scott beat Romans, and scored a good try. The place kick failed.

Resuming, even play was witnessed in the Gloucester half. Gent got the ball away smartly from scrums, but the passing broke down each time. A splendid dash by Neads, for Bristol, looked promising for another score, but a forward transfer took place on the line. Just previous to this, Shewring was prominent with a good run, but trying to jump Hall he came a fearful cropper, and was winded. He, however, soon resumed, and play was contested with great vigour.

A beautiful touch-finder by Oates gave Bristol an advantage, but Romans replied, and the Bristol custodian being collared in possession Gloucester reached the centre. The Gloucester forwards heeling smartly, Gent fed Stephens, but the ball went astray, and Lamond dribbled down beyond Romans. The City captain, however, kicked the ball dead from the field of play. A scrum followed right in front of the Gloucester posts, and the ball coming out to Wood, the latter dropped a neat goal, giving Bristol a lead of seven points.

Re-starting, Gloucester put in some grand work forward, and Gent and Stephens were also prominent. For infringements Bristol were penalised, and from a place ten yards from the centre Romans landed a lovely goal.

On the re-start play was very exciting, and just before the interval "Whacker" Smith scored an unconverted try. The try was a beauty, and was the outcome of lovely passing. Hudson raced down to Oates, who collared him on the line, but a pass back to "Whacker" Smith enabled the latter to complete a fine movement.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Bristol ..... 1 goal (d), 1 try  
Gloucester ..... 1 goal (p), 1 try

Romans started the second half, which opened in sensational style. From a throw-out near the centre, Goulding gathered, but threw back wildly yards from the Gloucester players. Lamond came along, and, fielding nicely, swerved past Romans and scored near the posts. The try was a fair gift, and being easily converted, Bristol again took a good lead.

Gloucester resumed at centre, and play was hotly contested. Some smart handling by the Bristol backs saw Scott make a good effort to score, but he was held up by Smith and Romans. Then Stephens getting a kick charged down, matters looked bad for Gloucester. Good kicking cleared for the visitors, but Bristol got back, and Shewring threw away a try by passing forward on the line.

A hot five minutes ensued near the Gloucester line, but relief came through touch-in-goal. The visitors played up strongly on the drop-out, but the backs made sorry mistakes in passing, and invariably lost ground. Pretty work by Gent made considerable headway for Gloucester. Brilliant forward rushes by both packs gained applause, and a spell of even play followed.

Then at centre the Bristol backs were set going, and Smith made a great dash down touch. "Whacker," however, legged him, and the situation was saved. From a loose rush in the Gloucester 25, Johns led a dribble, which Hudson took up. The ball was kicked past Oates, but the Bristol custodian saved in fine style.

Gloucester came near scoring a minute later, but Oates again staved off disaster with a grand kick up. A drop at goal by Gent was charged down, and Wood securing, Bristol transferred play to the Gloucester end, where operations continued. Loose footwork by Bristol took them close to the Gloucester line, where Romans was tackled off-side. Gloucester cleared, and Hall dribbled through cleverly to Oates, who effected a daring save. Bristol worked out, where Stephens broke through and punted to Oates, who was forced to kick straight to touch. Immediately after Romans kicked over the line, a minor resulting.

Following the drop-out Bristol kicked smartly, and followed up keenly. The result was that Gloucester were pressed, and the forwards bursting over Watson scored a try, Wood converting. The concluding stages were hotly fought out, but there was no more scoring.

RESULT :

Bristol ..... 3 goals (1d), 1 try (17 points)

Gloucester ..... 1 goal (p), 1 try (6 points)

REMARKS.

The extent of Gloucester's defeat was a big disappointment to the City supporters, but the scoring in no way represented the run of the game. The forwards were equally matched, and both eights served their backs well. At half, too, matters were even, but Bristol held a distinct advantage at three-quarter. They easily had the pace of the Gloucester men, and were better in combination, though as a whole the game did not produce many brilliant movements.

Gloucester lost their game after Lamond's try, which was the outcome of a bad piece of play by Goulding. The City vice-captain made up for his mistake by some grand work, especially in the lines out, afterwards. But Gloucester never recovered from this bit of back luck.

Gloucester, if not attacking so often and resolutely as their opponents, had several fine chances of scoring, but, as already remarked, the third line was wanting in finish and speed.

Oates played a splendid game for Bristol, saving in remarkable fashion on several occasions. Romans, too, gave a capital show, though he was twice beaten. Gent worked energetically and with success, but received poor support behind. The defence of the Gloucester backs was sound, and Smith was well looked after.