

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 1905.

SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. CHELTENHAM.

Cheltenham's close fight came as a big surprise, and on the play the Town hardly deserved to lose at all. A penalty goal is not by any means a satisfactory score to win by, but no doubt Gloucester suffered considerably by the off-side tactics of Goddard and one or two of his colleagues.

Cheltenham's game to-day was to break up the attacks of the home team, and by playing W. Unwin as an extra half they were enabled to frequently smother the Gloucester passing. On two or three occasions the City men broke through cleverly and nice openings were worked out for Hudson, but the wing man failed at the critical moment.

Nearly all the play in the first half went to Hudson's wing, and though now and again he brought off a good burst, the Gloucesterian found the defence too strong.

A. Marsden and Cottrell were towers of strength to the Town, and the former undoubtedly was the saviour of his side. Time after time he nipped in when matters looked dangerous for Cheltenham, using his splendid pace to the best advantage.

Where the marking was so close there was not much chance for brilliant combination, but sandwiched between a lot of close play were a few bright incidents, in which players on both sides were seen to distinct advantage. Fry, playing opposite Hudson, was as dangerous as ever, and the Gloucesterian found in the Cheltonian a bit more than he could manage.

The Gloucester backs, as a whole, were not happy in combination, and judgment in passing was sadly lacking at times. In the centre Hyam did a lot of good work, and with timely kicks rendered useful service. "Thomas" was not over brilliant, but he was shadowed very closely by Cottrell. "Whacker" Smith was a spectator for long periods of the game, but in the closing stages he and Hyam shone with some clever inter-passing, which nearly ended in tangible results. The forwards on both sides played a vigorous game, but there was not a lot of cleverness displayed. Loose rushing was a prominent feature, and in this department the Town eight held their own fairly well.

In the backs Gloucester were smarter in getting possession, and the ball came back cleanly to the halves. Individually, Matthews, Hawker, Johns, and Parham were best for Gloucester, whilst Cheltenham were well served by Goulding, Cook, and Cossens. At half, Gent and Stephens worked energetically, the latter shining repeatedly with good play. The third line, however, was lacking in support, and a number of promising movements went astray.

Goddard spoiled his exhibition owing to his frequent infringements, but apart from this he proved a useful partner to G. Unwin. The Town captain did not make many openings, but his experience and judgment were often displayed at the right moment. Both full-backs gave a good account of themselves, Romans perhaps giving the sounder display.

On the whole, Cheltenham have every reason to be satisfied with their performance, and the next meeting between the teams – the cup tie – should be looked forward to with exceptional interest.

GLOUCESTER A v. CHELTENHAM A.

CITY SECOND STRING SUCCESSFUL.

This match was played on the Athletic Ground. Cheltenham. Gloucester kicked off and put in some very good open work, but they rarely had a good chance of getting over the line from the mistakes made, chiefly at three-quarter.

For a while each team attacked in turn, with the visitors holding a slight superiority. Some pretty passing bouts were effected by either side, whilst the home backs, with fewer opportunities, utilised them better. Gloucester, however, were the first to score, E. Hall eventually getting away and scoring a try from an individual effort. The crowd, however, loudly expressed the opinion that the player had knocked on. Hall also took the goal kick, and added the extra points.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A 1 goal
Cheltenham A Nil

On resuming the game was for a time even, but from a bout of loose play E. Hall crossed, the ensuing kick failing.

Gloucester continued to press, and the three-quarters passed with much better effect. Their forwards, too, were keen, and both in rushing and scrum-working were much stronger than Cheltenham. For some time the City backs kept dangerously in the home 25, and Cheltenham were forced to concede a minor. A. Fisher, from half-way, made a fine attempt to score, and a splendid run ended with a strong tackle.

The ensuing exchanges took place in Gloucester territory, and Cheltenham tried hard to equalise, but without result. In the closing stages Gloucester were forcing matters, and E. Hall gained another try, which he also goaled.

RESULT :
Gloucester 2 goals, 1 try (13 points)
Cheltenham Nil