

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1905.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. UNITED SERVICES (PORTSMOUTH).

A RUNAWAY VICTORY.

HEAVY SCORING BY GLOUCESTER.

Gloucester entertained the United Services team to-day at Kingsholm for the first time. The City played full strength, but the visitors were short of two or three good men, who were assisting Surrey against Kent. The weather was fine, and there was a good attendance of spectators when the teams took the field at 3.45 as follows : —

BACKS

GLOUCESTER.		UNITED SERVICES.
G. Romans		Eng-Lieut. F. Corsair, R.N.
	THREE-QUARTER BACKS.	
C. Smith		Eng-Lieut. S. F. Cooper, R.N.
E. Hall		Lieut. Whitworth, R.N.
J. Harrison		Sub-Lieut. F. Naysmith, R.N.
A. Hudson		—
	HALF-BACKS.	
D. R. Gent		Lieut. Noble, R.N.
J. Stephens		Sub-Lieut. Talbot, R.N.
	FORWARDS.	
W. Johns (capt.)		Lieut. Dorman, R.N.
A. Hawker		Lieut. Thom, R.N.
B. Parham		Lieut. Austen, R.N.
G. Vears		Eng-Lieut. Brown, R.N.
G. Matthews		Lieut. G. Hart, R.N.
J. Jewell		Lieut. H. Hallows, R.N.
H. Quixley		Lieut. B. Paton, R.N.
F. Pegler		Lieut. T. Carfrae, R.N.

Referee : Mr. H. SMITH (Bristol).

THE GAME.

The services arrived one short, and they only played 14 men. Johns lost the toss, and Hawker kicked off against the wind. The return only travelled a few yards, and the ball being knocked on, a scrum was ordered near the centre. Gent got the ball away neatly to the home three-quarters, and Hall punted well down to the Services end. A penalty followed to Gloucester, but there was a good return and the Services reached the centre.

Play was extremely fast, and the visitors by neat work behind the scrum got inside the home half. Hawker punted back finely, but the game was quickly returned to mid-field, where some fast forward play was introduced. Matthews, breaking away from a scrum dribbled splendidly to Corsair, who, however, picked up and got in a good kick.

The Gloucester backs were set in motion nicely by Gent, but Smith failed to handle, and the movement was checked. A little later Gent got away beautifully, and sent out a wide pass to Hudson, who took the ball on the run and raced down to Corsair. The latter effected a fine tackle, and though Harrison was given possession he was immediately collared.

Gloucester made further headway, but a good kick sent them back. A brilliant bit of combination between Gent, Stephens, and Hudson, on the blind side of the scrum, nearly took the latter over, the wing man being collared just outside. From here the ball went right across to the other wing, but the City failed to get through.

Gloucester continued to attack strongly, and Gent making a mark Romans had a shot for goal, but the ball fell short. The leather, however, getting loose, the home team had a fine chance of scoring, but failed badly on the line. By strong forward work the Services relieved, and then a lucky kick sent the ball to Romans. The latter foolishly ran back and tried to round an opponent, but he was forced to kick – a poor effort, which went close to the home line. The visitors looked certain to score, but Gloucester saved luckily.

The City were desperately pressed on their line, but Gent gained a few yards with a useful punt to touch. The Services, however, worked back, and some fumbling on the line ended in a home man kicking out to Cooper, who apparently made his mark right in front of goal. The Gloucester players stopped, but the mark was not allowed, and Cooper ran in under the posts with the softest of tries. The place kick failed.

Gloucester resumed, and working well together made a rush for the opposing end. A fine bout of passing looked promising for a score, but Parham, the last to receive, was just collared by the knickers by Cooper, who literally tore the garments in half, to the great amusement of the crowd. A new pair of knickers was soon forthcoming, and the game resumed after a slight delay.

Gloucester were soon on the attack, and a grand movement looked all over for a score, but the final transfer went astray. The City, however, continued on the aggressive, and after a few sharp exchanges Harrison ran over between the posts. Romans converted.

The Services re-started but Gloucester, through Stephens, got back in fine style, and a try was only lost by a forward transfer. The wind was proving a big help to the visitors, and a kick by Cooper took play well into the home half. Here Romans was again at fault, and the Gloucester lines were placed in jeopardy. However, a splendid movement initiated by Parham cleared the pressure, and the City were soon on the attack again. From a throw-out Parham broke clean away, and sending a timely pass to Matthews the latter scored a good try. Romans' shot for goal just failed.

The visitors restarted with a short drop-out, and following up again secured possession. A series of dashes and passes followed, but the Gloucester tackling was very safe. Clever back play by the City gave the Services a lot of anxiety, but a knock-on by Smith spoiled a good opening. Gloucester rushed nearly to the line, where Stephens, receiving from Gent, attempted a dash through, but he was held up.

An interception by the visitors enabled them to relieve slightly, but Gloucester were carrying matters pretty well, and the defence was sorely taxed. From near the 25-line the ball got amongst the home backs, and, from a pass by Hall, Smith went straight for the corner. Cooper went for the Gloucesterian, but he was handed off, and Smith got the ball down safely amidst cheers. Romans failed at goal.

On resuming Gloucester at once showed up with a neat passing movement, and after Hall had cleverly tricked the opposition Harrison sent on to Hudson, who with a great effort scored a corner try. No goal resulted.

The Services pluckily resumed, but the combination of the home team was too much for them, and they were soon beaten back. Stephens showed up with an exceedingly clever run and pass, and Smith crossed, but a forward transfer was ruled. From a line-out, however, Pegler got hold and scored a good try, Romans goaling. Soon after the interval was called.

HALF-TIME :

Gloucester 2 goals, 3 tries
United Services 1 try

The Services resumed, Romans replying with a [*word unreadable*] kick to beyond midfield. The ball was fumbled, and Vears picking up, Gloucester ought to have scored at once, but Jewell knocked on. It mattered little, however, for in less than two minutes, after some clever handling, Harrison ran behind the posts for Romans to land a goal.

The visitors re-started, but play was quickly transferred to their end. A big kick by Cooper brought relief, but near the centre the Gloucester backs got on the move, Smith putting in a fine dash. He was pulled over near the line, but managed to yield to Hudson, who had an unopposed run behind the posts. Another goal resulted, making 29 points to 3.

Immediately on the restart Gloucester were on the attack, and Parham was nearly over after a smart dash from a line-out. By dint of hard loose work, the Services reached midfield, but they were hopelessly out-classed, and following a splendid opening by Stephens, Harrison scored the eighth try, which remained unconverted.

The Services pluckily tried to change the run of the game, but they were badly outplayed, and Hall and Hudson scored in quick succession, one of which was converted.

For a few minutes the Services improved, and a great effort by Whitworth, who ran half the length of the field before being upset by Romans, was loudly applauded. Gloucester quickly took the game in hand again, and lovely back play gave Hudson two more tries. The place-kicks failed.

Play continued delightfully open, Gloucester doing pretty well as they liked. The Services, however, put in some sharp dashes, and occasionally got beyond the centre. Whitworth, intercepting a pass, looked likely to clear, but Romans stopped him. Then from a scrum on the home 25 Stephens, Gent, Harrison, and Hudson took part in a lovely bit of combination which ended in the latter scoring his sixth try. Romans converted.

Play to the end was all in favour of the home team, but there was no further scoring.

RESULT :

Gloucester 6 goals 7 tries (51 points)

Services 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

Though fearfully one-sided the game contained much that was interesting, the back play of the City team being delightful to witness. The Services were handicapped in having to play a man short throughout, but they showed grit and pluck to the end, and were a rare sporting side.

Gloucester were fairly caught napping when Cooper scored, but the referee made a palpable mistake in not whistling for a mark. It was a lucky try, but Gloucester could afford to be magnanimous to their opponents under the circumstances.

The score of 51 points is Gloucester's biggest victory of the season, the previous best being 45 points in the opening match against the Old Edwardians.

All the tries were obtained after smart work, the handling of the home team being wonderfully effective. Play was so much in favour of Gloucester that Romans frequently came up to the three-quarter line, but more often than not he upset the combination, and his side would have benefitted had he kept his proper position.

All the Gloucester backs were in rare trim, and they had another day out. Hudson did the major portion of the scoring, and his six tries to-day brings his aggregate to 27 for the season. He was well looked after by Harrison, and on the other wing Hall and Smith combined in a number of pretty movements.

"Whacker" was opposed to Cooper, but the International was given no chance to shine, and on the whole was very disappointing.

At half-back, Gent and Stephens worked together with great effect, and were continually making openings. Talbot and Noble worked hard for the Services, and Whitworth played a strong game at centre three-quarter, making one or two capital runs.

The Gloucester forwards were exceedingly smart in the open, Parham, Pegler, Jewell, and Matthews being very prominent.

The visiting seven never relaxed their efforts, and occasionally showed up well in loose footwork.

SWINDON v. GLOUCESTER A.

Played at Swindon.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 30 points

Swindon Nil

JC