

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1905.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. TORQUAY ATHLETIC.

CITY TEAM IN DEVON.

GLOUCESTER BEATEN BY A DROPPED GOAL.

In place of the cancelled fixture with Devon Albion, Gloucester arranged a match with Torquay Athletic, this being the first time the teams had met.

Gloucester were short of Gent (engaged in the International match at the Crystal Palace) and Hudson (who was unable to get away from business until later in the day). The latter, however, will be available for the Plymouth match on Monday.

Mr C. Williams had charge of the team, and seventeen players made the journey to Torquay this morning. The final selection of the side was deferred, but it was eventually decided to play Wood full-back, Romans at wing three-quarter, and A. Hall at half. Torquay were at full strength.

Gloucester. — A. Wood, back; C. Smith, E. Hall, J. Harrison, and G. Romans, three-quarter backs; J. Stephens and A. Hall, half-backs; W. Johns (captain), A. Hawker, B. Parham, G. Vears, J. Merchant, H. Collins, G. Matthews, and F. Pegler, forwards.

There was a gate of about 3,000. Gloucester kicked off, but were ordered back for off-side. Torquay broke away from a scrum at the centre and reached the visitors' 25. Stephens relieved the pressure. Cribbett had a clear field, but knocked on, and Gloucester came away to the centre.

Romans did a pretty dash, and the dividing line was crossed by Gloucester. The ball passed clean along the visitors' three-quarter line, and Romans punted across with the idea of giving Smith an opportunity, but the ball fell into the hands of Lark, who sent back to the centre.

The Gloucester forwards were not getting the ball, and there was plenty of life in the game. White kicked away to the Gloucester 25, but the visitors retaliated with a fine forward rush to the home ground, and made a desperate attack on the home goal. Smith got over in the corner, but was called back. Harrison made a desperate attempt, but knocked on. Then Huxham relieved the pressure.

Romans got a free, and another fine passing bout enabled the City team to once more besiege the home goal. The defence was strong. Huxham's very judicious kicking placed Gloucester on the defensive, and Fleet, receiving from Farr, dropped a goal.

From an unwise kick by Tucker the home back just managed to save, Harrison being close up. Hall subsequently put in some pretty work, and Romans, getting a free, took play very near the home line. Pretty forward work relieved the situation. Romans' shot at goal from a penalty failed. The home tackling was very keen, and the Gloucester passing was nullified. From a punt by Romans Torquay had to save, and at half-time play was at the centre.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Torquay 1 goal (d)
Gloucester Nil

Torquay restarted, but were called back for off-side. Huxham started an attack, and Gloucester had to save from a kick by Cribbett. An exchange of long punts resulted in Gloucester's favour. Romans tried to drop a goal from a penalty, but kicked short. On the kick-out there was a forward rush to the Torquay line, but the home defence could not be broken. Torquay not only repelled the attack but retaliated so well that they got up close to the City line, Gating almost crossing.

Harrison relieved, but Tucker lost an excellent chance of scoring for Torquay through fumbling with the ball. The home forwards, however, were playing with great dash, and using their feet to perfection. They worked up close to the Gloucester goal, and although temporarily checked by Smith returned to the attack. Harrison, by a huge kick, took play to the centre, but Lark returned with interest, and eventually, after a considerable period of slogging defence, Gloucester gained relief by touching down.

Within a few seconds Torquay were again attacking, and Tucker was only pulled up a few feet from the Gloucester line. The homesters were ultimately sent back to the centre by judicious kicking, but Gloucester seemed quite unable to maintain their position. After crossing the centre line, A. Hall made a desperate but unwise attempt to bore through the Torquay forwards, the result being that once more the visitors had to defend. Hawkins and Tucker made a dash for the Gloucester line, but just failed to get over. Gloucester were for a considerable period penned up in one corner, and in spite of their determined efforts could not free themselves.

RESULT :

Torquay Athletic 1 goal (d) (4 points)
Gloucester Nil

REMARKS.

A desperately stubborn match, but by no means pretty from a spectator's point of view. Gloucester were stronger at three-quarter, but the Torquay forwards, by their dash and go, to a large extent nullified their efforts. They went in strongly for dribbling and loose rushes, and then the tackling was very keen.

Much of Gloucester's passing was much too stationary, and Romans was very slow at times. Smith was the most useful man, and played with greater resource than the other three-quarters. Both full backs did well, and there was little to choose between the half-backs, although the home pair had more opportunities than Stephens and A. Hall.

It was at forward that Gloucester were beaten. There was not that dash and bustle in their play which was displayed on the home side, and they certainly did not show that they possessed such an intimate knowledge of the use of their feet as the opposing eight.

GLOUCESTER A v. SWINDON.

EASY WIN FOR THE SECONDS.

Played at Kingsholm. The Seconds had Pyart and A. Hall away with the First team in Devon. A late start was made owing to non-arrival of some of the City players. The teams were : —

Gloucester A. — J. Watts, back; H. Hughes, H. Cook, C. Goddard, and J. Goddard, three-quarter backs; H. Ewers and H. Smith, half-backs; H. Harris, C. Voyce, H. Taylor, W. Holder, F. Clutterbuck, R. Craddock, F. Welshman, S. Hayward, forwards.

Swindon. — E. Thomas, back; G. Bowers, W. Handley, L. Adams, and J. Watkins, three-quarter backs; G. Handley and J. Thomas, half-backs; C. Hawkins, W. King, M. Richards, J. Kingston, W. Dawson, H. White, W. Hill, and F. Abrahams, forwards.

Swindon started, and after some scrambling play at midfield the ball was dribbled over the visitors' line, but E. Thomas kicked dead. Soon after the drop-out Swindon were penalised, but Watts' kick was returned, and the full back being heavily charged over, he was temporarily laid out.

Resuming, Ewers and C. Goddard showed up with a bit of clever work, but the centre passed forward, and a possible chance of scoring was lost. Swindon kicked out of danger, but Gloucester got back with a dangerous rush, which was only checked in the nick of time.

From a throw-out in the visitors' half a Gloucester forward received and handed to Smith, who cut through and yielded at the right moment to C. Goddard, for the latter to score after a strong dash.

After the try was obtained it was discovered that the Gloucester touch-judge (Walter Taylor) had his flag up, but the referee allowed the point. Watts failed at goal.

Continuing, play was very tame, until the Gloucester backs got away with a neat passing bout, the effort leading to an attack on the Swindon line. C. Goddard was nearly through again shortly after, and then on the other wing Hughes raced for the corner, but was pushed to touch. Gloucester kept up the pressure, and from scrums near the line Ewers was twice held up in quick succession. After Craddock had just failed to cross from a line-out, Swindon were penalised, Holder making a fine attempt at goal.

Gloucester continued to have the better of the exchanges, but the passing was very erratic. J. Goddard was prominent with a good dash, but he was pushed over when about to pass, and Swindon escaped. From the subsequent scrum Ewers passed out to Smith, who with a neat kick dropped a goal.

Swindon restarted, J. Goddard replying to E. Thomas, who fumbled. Hughes and Harris were well up, and the latter picking up, ran and passed to Smith, who raced home with a good try. Holder failed at goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A1 goal (d), 2 tries
Swindon Nil

Gloucester attacked immediately after the restart, and in less than three minutes Hughes was credited with a try, Watts failing at goal.

Ensuing play was entirely in favour of the home team, but knocks on spoiled one or two good openings. By useful kicks Swindon gained relief, and for a time midfield was the centre of operations. Intercepting a Gloucester pass a visitor ran clear to Watts, but he was brought down, and the ball becoming loose Ewers dribbled back cleverly.

Following this movement the Seconds attacked strongly, and in some loose play the ball was transferred to Hughes, who notched a corner try. No goal resulted.

On the resumption Craddock was conspicuous with a good dash from a throw-out, and later Harris distinguished himself with some good work in the open. Before the end Smith dropped another goal for Gloucester.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 2 goals (d), 4 tries (20 points)
Swindon Nil

REMARKS.

The game calls for little comment. Swindon were a well beaten team throughout, and they never looked like scoring.

The Seconds' display was by no means up to average, but occasionally some smart work was witnessed. Holder, Craddock, Welshman, and Harris were the pick of the home forwards, the former being very prominent in the open.

At half, Ewers and Smith easily had the whip hand of their opponents, and the home three-quarters, except for loose handling, were much the smarter combination. Watts was very safe at full back.

Swindon showed up well in loose rushes, and the backs kicked well, but their knowledge of the passing game was very limited.