

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1905.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. DEVON ALBION.

THE CITY TEAM AT DEVONPORT.

VISITORS WELL BEATEN.

HUDSON PLAYS A FINE GAME.

The return match between these clubs was played at Devonport.

Gloucester were short of W. Johns, who found his injured shoulder somewhat painful after last week's match, and C. Smith, who though making the journey, stood down at the last minute owing to a slight strain he sustained whilst at practice on Thursday.

The vacancy was filled by A. Hall, who accompanied the team as reserve.

The Albion fielded short of Bracken (forward), but otherwise the Devon Champions were at full strength.

Gloucester managed to make a draw with their powerful rivals at Devonport last year, and in the first game this season at Kingsholm honours were again easy, though on the play the City had slightly the better of the exchanges.

The City players made the long journey overnight, the party being under the care of Mr. W. H. Worth (treasurer).

The following were the teams : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	DEVON ALBION.
G. Romans	Backs.	S. J. Irvin
A. Hall	Three-quarter	C. H. Hoskings
E. Hall	backs.	F. Dean
J. Harrison	"	F. Moir
A. Hudson	"	J. Ferguson
D. R. Gent	Half-Backs.	R. Jago
J. Stephens	"	J. Summers
A. Hawker	Forwards.	W. Spiers (capt.)
F. Pegler	"	W. Mills
G. Vears	"	J. Cummings
H. Collins	"	E. W. Roberts
J. Jewell	"	D. Cooms
G. Matthews	"	F. W. C. Coles
B. Parham	"	W. Edwards
H. Quixley	"	J. Powell

THE GAME.

The weather was fine, and the spectators numbered 5,000. Both teams had a warm reception as they took the field.

Gloucester kicked off up the slight incline, and a mull by Hoskings gave them a footing in the home half. Loose work by the forwards gained further ground for the visitors, but Jago, stealing away from the scrum, gave to Moir, and he kicking on saw E. Hall at fault, and the Albion got to the Gloucester 25.

Fine play by the Gloucester men took them to the centre line, where Gent tried a flying kick from the scrum. Hoskings got hold and kicked to Romans, who was at fault, but Harrison ran round smartly and saved the situation by finding touch at his own 25.

A fine burst by Harrison and Hudson took play to Irvin, who failed to check them, but Moir, running back, punted to touch. The position gained was useful, and a grand run by Hudson ended in his being hurled into touch within a yard of the line.

Smart outside work by the Albion took play to Romans, who punted weakly. Coles secured and gave to Edwards, who ran into touch well inside the Gloucester half. The game was fast and exciting, but chiefly confined to the forwards.

A warm attack by the Albion followed an exchange of long kicks, but a mark by A. Hall relieved the pressure. A smart interception by Stephens gained further ground for the visitors, but he was legged, and the ball going to Irvin he found touch well in the 'Cestrians' territory. Outside work was tried by the Albion, but Gloucester's defence was keen. They failed to clear their lines, however, and Summers dropped a fine goal. Vears was injured, but resumed.

A brilliant bout of passing amongst the Gloucester three-quarters broke down at Hudson, and a smart kick by Summers put the Albion closer to the Gloucester posts. Gent was penalised, but the kick was fruitless, and Romans broke away and brought welcome relief. Both teams played a hard, vigorous game. Gloucester attacked warmly in the closing stages of the first half.

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

During the interval Vears fainted, and Gloucester resumed with one short, and within a minute the game was stopped to allow E. Hall to recover from a knock in the head.

Hudson was responsible for a grand run along the touch line, but he was grassed by Moir. He got the ball away to Jewell, who was promptly surrounded.

Play was of a scrambling nature, and chiefly around the centre line till Hudson got away at a terrific pace, and was brought down by Irvin within a few yards of the mark. Gloucester made a grand effort to cross, but failed, and Albion relieved.

Romans being at fault looked like the downfall of the Gloucester line, but Hudson swept right across the field and kicked into touch. Vears now resumed his place in the pack. A bout of passing, initiated by Summers, ended in Moir scoring an unconverted try for the Albion.

Heavy forward work by the visitors put them attacking, but Albion, breaking up a scrum, rushed right through, and Romans failed to get hold of the ball, but wheeled round and kicked over his own goal line. The scrum favoured Albion, and passing amongst the forwards ended in Powell scoring a try, although Romans tried to hold him up. Irvin's kick failed.

Tricky work by the Devon men demoralised the visitors, and quick, short passing resulted in Powell scoring another unconverted try.

Gent gave Gloucester a footing in the Albion half with a long punt to touch. Short forward rushes by the Albion took play to the centre, where Gent started a bout of passing. The whole of the quarters handled, and considerable ground was gained. The Albion worked out, only to be sent back by a smart run and kick by Gent.

A series of uninteresting touch throws and scrums followed near the centre line. Two smart bouts of passing by the Albion quarters put them contiguous with the visitors' line, and Ferguson ran in under the bar with a try which Mills converted.

Within a couple of minutes the Albion again swarmed into Gloucester preserves, but Romans running in dribbled away to the centre. A. Hall broke away from his own half, and dodged all but Irvin, who was lucky in putting him to touch. Gloucester were determined attackers, and Gent crossed with a brilliant try, which Romans failed to convert.

Romans narrowly missed landing a field goal.

RESULT :

Albion	2 goals (1d) 3 tries (18 points)
Gloucester	1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

The score does not indicate the difference between the teams. Three of the Albion crossings were purely opportunist tries. The game was of a hard, vigorous nature, and from start to finish the pace was very fast. Knock-outs were numerous, and Gloucester were the principal sufferers.

While Vears was absent Gloucester seemed to have more of the play, but the Albion held a slight advantage during the remainder of the game.

Romans, was weak, his kicking unreliable, rarely finding touch. Hudson was the strong man of Gloucester in attacking. He was brilliant, and his defence was sound. He held a roving commission, and was always handy when required. Gent was also powerful, and his all-round display was meritorious.

Little outside work was indulged in, Gloucester relying on the forward game, but the keen work of the home halves nullified their efforts. Jewell, Parham, and Hawker were the best of a hard-working pack.