

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1905.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. NORTHAMPTON.

CITY'S FIRST AWAY MATCH.

THE CITIZENS VICTORIOUS.

Gloucester were engaged in their first fixture away from home to-day, the City appearing at Northampton to oppose the East Midland representatives. Harrison being troubled with an injury to his ankle, he took his turn to stand down, and the arrangement of the back division was again changed, Wood going half, Stephens centre three-quarter, and Romans full-back. Northampton fielded a strong fifteen, though one missed the names of the Brothers Kingston and H. Palmer. Last season each club were successful at home, Gloucester's defeat in the first match causing surprise to the City club's supporters. On the day's play, however, Northampton clearly deserved their win.

The following were the teams : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	NORTHAMPTON.
G. Romans	Backs.	C. Leigh
C. Smith	Three-quarter	H. West
E. Hall	backs.	F. Coles
J. Stephens	"	J. Mason
A. Hudson	"	E. R. Mobbs
D. R. Gent	Half-Backs.	T. H. Preston
A. E. Wood	"	H. C. Palmer (capt.)
W. Johns (capt.)	Forwards.	H. B. Follitt
A. Hawker	"	A. J. Hobbs
B. Parham	"	C. Stafford
F. Pegler	"	J. W. Warren
G. Matthews	"	A. Chalmers
G. Vears	"	L. H. Johnson
H. Collins	"	G. Burke
J. Jewell	"	S. Ferneyhough

Referee : Mr. J. PRITCHARD (Midland Counties Union).

The weather was bright though cold, and there was a large crowd of spectators. Northampton started, and for off-side Gloucester were immediately penalised, but the kick availed the home team little, and play settled at the centre. For the first five minutes the game consisted of scrums and lines-out, but eventually the City forwards got in a fine rush, and Leigh was tackled almost on his line.

A free-kick gained relief for Northampton, and another penalty against Gloucester saw Leigh find touch close to the visitors' goal. A good forward burst by Gloucester changed the venue, but a mistake by Wood nearly let Northampton in, Romans saving a couple of yards outside. Gloucester cleared, but Smith failing to judge a high kick, Northampton were nearly through.

Stephens, making his mark, got in useful relief, and then Gloucester tried passing, but it broke down, and ground was lost. Northampton replied with some neat exchanges, which carried the game to the Gloucester 25, where play was hotly contested for a few minutes. Romans effected a good clearance when matters looked dangerous, and then Hall punted well down to the Northampton end. Here Romans had a shot for goal from a penalty, but the kick fell short. Gloucester obtained another good position through well-judged kicking by Hall, but when Gent opened up the game Stephens failed to accept the transfer. Some loose play followed, ending in Gent getting possession and making a drop for goal, but the ball went wide of the posts.

Play on the resumption favoured Gloucester, but Hudson knocked on when there was a chance to open out. The Northampton forwards were prominent with a strong rush, which Stephens stopped cleverly. Then near mid-field Gent initiated a clever movement from the scrum, and Hall breaking through beautifully sent Hudson over with a good try. Romans failed at goal.

Immediately after the drop-out Wood fielded the ball very neatly in the open, and with a strong effort ran to Leigh and passed to Hudson, who dashed over, but apparently lost the ball, as only a touchdown was allowed.

Gloucester played up strongly after this, and the forwards heeling well the backs were well served. Close tackling by the home team, however, broke up the combination. Just now Hall sustained an injury to his knee, and had to retire, Pegler coming out at three-quarter. Gloucester, however, continued to press, and Gent was nearly over after a smart dribble. Later, Mobbs made a good run for the home team, but he was stopped. Then Hudson scored after a grand run, the place failing.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 2 tries
Northampton Nil

Hawker started the second half for Gloucester, Hall now returning, though he limped a good deal. Gent was early conspicuous with clever footwork, but he was unsupported, and West picking up kicked back. Centre play followed, and then Mobbs securing the ball as the result of a mistake by the Gloucester backs, shook off a couple of opponents and handed out to West. The latter raced hard for the line, and just crossed in the corner. The goal-kick failed.

Resuming, Preston dribbled right through to Romans, who only partially cleared, the Gloucester line narrowly escaping. Playing with great dash Northampton vigorously attacked, and the City defence was sorely taxed. Stephens, snapping up an opponent's pass, kicked to Leigh, who was upset at the centre by the Gloucester forwards. This effort brought much-needed relief, but a minute afterwards ground was lost through faulty passing. A combined forward burst by the City looked dangerous, but Mobbs saved by running to touch. Gloucester, however, kept up the attack, and from a pass by Gent Wood scored easily. Romans made a poor attempt to goal.

Wood replied splendidly to the drop-out, and Parham led a fine dribble to Leigh, who, however, cleared nicely. Gent, fielding in the open, kicked across, but Mobbs secured and punted to the Gloucester line, where Romans was pounced upon. It was a serious moment for Gloucester, but the forwards effected a good clearance. Play on both sides was subsequently very scrappy, and entirely lacked finish.

The game was mainly confined to the forwards for the next few minutes, but at length Gent fed Hudson, but the wing man was bored to touch. Some exchange kicking ended in favour of Leigh, but Gent twice gained Gloucester considerable ground with splendid touch kicks.

Northampton worked back, but a spirited rush by the Gloucester forwards looked all over a score, Stafford saving in the nick of time. Gloucester were in a splendid attacking position, and the City worked hard to increase their lead, but the defence prevailed.

Brilliant passing by the Gloucester backs looked promising, Hudson being pulled down when all but through. Operations were contested in the Northampton 25, but the home team eventually gained relief through an unsuccessful drop at goal by Wood. A great dribble by Matthews took Gloucester back, and passing between the backs nearly brought about another score. In the last five minutes Northampton took up the attack, and just on time only just missed scoring.

RESULT :

Gloucester 3 tries (9 points)
Northampton 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

It was by no means a great game, but on the play Gloucester well deserved their win. At one time in the second half Northampton flattered their supporters, but Gloucester showed dogged defence, and successfully maintained their lead.

The forwards on both sides played a hard, vigorous game, but there was not much cleverness. Gloucester were superior in the scrums, and with the chances they had the City backs should have done far more effective work. The passing for the most part, however, was very faulty, and a number of movements started by Gent went astray.

Gent played a wonderfully smart game, and Wood, after a moderate opening, showed up splendidly. Hall, up to the time he was hurt, displayed capital form, and Stephens put in a lot of useful work.

Hudson's two tries were the result of dashing runs, the second especially being a fine effort. Smith got little chance in attack, but tackled soundly. Romans, at full-back, was better than Leigh, and generally kicked well. Matthews, Parham, Jewell, and Johns were the pick of the Gloucester forwards, but the men at times were wild in the open.

GLOUCESTER A v. MONMOUTH.

AN AMPLE REVENGE.

These teams met at Kingsholm, before a fair attendance. The homesters fielded practically the advertised side, but Monmouth had one or two absentees from the team which beat the City Seconds at Monmouth a fortnight ago. The visitors looked a bigger lot than the Seconds, but the latter were confident and a good game was expected.

The teams were : —

Gloucester A. — J. Watts, back; H. Hughes, H. Cook, J. Goddard, and "W. Brown," three-quarter backs; A. Hall and H. Ewers, half-backs; A. Pyart (capt.), J. Merchant, G. Gough, F. Clutterbuck, H. Taylor, R. Craddock, W. Holder, and F. Welshman, forwards.

Monmouth. — J. Howells, back; A. C. Morgan, W. Rowland (capt.), T. Pembridge, and R. Vick, three-quarter backs; E. W. Caldicutt and J. Pembridge, half-backs; L. Merrick, S. Russell, H. Vaughan, A. Morris, W. Welsh, W. Moses, G. Brookes, and P. Jenkins, forwards.

Monmouth started, but Ewers returned, and the opening stages were contested in the neutral zone. The Seconds' forwards carried a scrum well, but off-side play robbed them of the advantage, and Monmouth gained ground. A good kick by Cook, however, sent the game into the Monmouth quarters, where the visitors tried passing, but without much effect. Rowland marked, and Hall failing to reply, Monmouth gained ground.

Hall broke away beautifully from a scrum, and beating several opponents cleverly looked to have a fine opening, but his pass was not accepted. A minute later Ewers dribbled away prettily, but Howells saved splendidly and kicked out. Gloucester further pressed and a Monmouth man carried over. From the succeeding scrum the ball came out to Cook, who handed to Hughes, and the latter dodged over in the corner after ten minutes' play. Welshman landed a splendid goal from the difficult angle.

Gloucester quickly were in a good position again, but a wild pass by Ewers lost a lot of ground, and Monmouth obtained a footing well over the centre. Hughes sent them back with a good kick, and Howells replied to touch, and once again the game settled on the visitors' 25 line.

A pretty bit of passing by Hughes and Hall ended in a Gloucestrian getting over the line, but the Monmouth touch-judge's flag was up. Gloucester were not long to be deprived of the just reward of their good work, as a moment later Hall and "Brown" combined with the result that the latter scored cleverly under the posts. Welshman goaled.

Exchange kicking followed the re-start, but Gloucester claimed the advantage. From a scrum the ball came out on the Monmouth side, and Morgan essayed a kick, but the ball struck "Brown" full in the chest. He, however, smartly gathered the ball, and trickily beating Howells, scored far out. No goal resulted.

Ewers was responsible for a clever opening, but Hall's pass went astray. However, the Gloucester forwards, who were playing very well, took the game again to Monmouth territory. Rowland attempted to relieve with a kick, but "Brown" received, and with a smart run recorded his third try, which Welshman improved with a good kick.

In succeeding play the visitors gained a footing in the Gloucester half, but Hughes kicked out. An injury to J. Pembridge caused a short stoppage, and he had to be taken into the "gym." Play still favoured Gloucester, who again attacked.

Pembridge returned at the point when Gloucester were within a yard or two of the line. The ball came out all right, but at the crucial point something went wrong with the handling, and a score was prevented.

"Brown" narrowly escaped crossing in the corner, but Gloucester still kept up the pressure. Cook misfielded and let Monmouth out of danger. Ewers was penalised for pushing the ball back into the scrum, but "Brown" replied and prevented a return.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	3 goals, 1 try
Monmouth	Nil

It transpired that just previous to half-time, Merrick, the leader of the Monmouth pack, had badly injured his knee, and the visitors had to restart without him. Fortunately, however, he was soon able to resume, and by the appearance of the game his presence was very necessary, as Gloucester were quickly getting to work again, and two good passing movements had caused the game to be taken to the Monmouth end. However, the visiting forwards, by strenuous efforts, carried the game beyond the centre.

Gloucester tried passing, but Goddard held too long, and was consequently brought to earth. Monmouth replied with a good rally, and Rowland put in a capital run, but he was not backed up, and Gloucester quickly centred play again. Rowland again shone with a good touch finder. Howells failed to field a kick by Craddock, and Gloucester once more obtained a footing in the Monmouth 25. A touch-down, however, was the only result.

Monmouth carried the scrum well, but they over-ran the ball, and the Gloucester front rank quickly got back. Play was keenly contested at the centre for some time, and then Morris marked and gained some ground, but Gloucester quickly worked out of danger. Monmouth were, however, showing improved form, and kept in the home half for some time. Morgan sustained an injury which necessitated a short stoppage, but he was able to continue.

Gloucester claimed a free at the centre, but no ground was gained, and play ruled in neutral territory for a long time, the play becoming somewhat scrambling. By the aid of a kick and follow up by Hughes, Gloucester attained to the Monmouth 25. Gloucester tried passing, Cook throwing out wide to "Brown," who dashed hard for the line and appeared to have scored in the corner. The Monmouth touch flag went up, but the referee overruled it and allowed the try. No goal resulted.

Gloucester again attacked, but the passing left something to be desired, and two or three openings were thrown away. Eventually, however, Hall worked out an opening for Hughes, who ran in under the posts, Welshman goaling.

Monmouth rallied, but "Brown" intercepted a pass cleverly, and when tackled by the full back passed to Hall, who scored a good try as the result of a capitally realised opportunity. Welshman failed at goal.

Monmouth got up close to the line by the aid of a touch-kick by Vick, but they made no use of their chances, and the home men quickly transferred play to the centre, and it was in this region that the whistle sounded.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 4 goals, 3 tries (29 points)
Monmouth Nil

REMARKS.

The visitors were clearly outclassed, and Gloucester took a substantial revenge for the three points' defeat suffered at Monmouth. The City forwards got the ball more frequently in the scrum, and although on occasions combination was lacking in the rear division, the efforts of the home team were generally superior to the visitors' defence.

"Brown" played a capital game on the wing, and Hughes at the opposite end of the three-quarter line acquitted himself well. Ewers and Hall were too good for their vis-a-vis, and of the forwards Craddock, Pyart, and Welshman played a sterling game.

The full backs about divided honours, and of the visitors Morris, Welsh, Rowland, Merrick, and Morgan were most prominent, but the attempts at passing by the Monmouth outsides were feeble in the extreme.

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