

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1906.

TO-DAY'S MATCHES.

GLOUCESTER v. NORTHAMPTON.

SCRATCH CITY TEAM IN THE EAST MIDLANDS.

GLOUCESTER'S SURPRISING WIN.

The Gloucester Club negotiated for an alteration in the date of this fixture, owing to the South Africans match, but Northampton could not consent.

The City had five players in the team against the Colonials, Gent, E. Hall, Merchant, and Welshman on the injured list, and G. Vears unwell. There were numerous offers of assistance from players connected with other clubs, but only four outsiders were introduced, viz., Powell and Jones (Lydney), and Wright and Teague (Cinderford).

Northampton were at full strength.

Teams : –

Gloucester. – G. Romans, back; F. Smith, E. Butler, J. Wright (Cinderford), and L. Powell (Lydney), three-quarter backs; H. Smith and A. Hall, half-backs; B. Parham (captain), W. Johns, H. Collins, A. Purton, F. Pegler, A. Hawker, G. L. Jones (Lydney), and A. Teague (Cinderford), forwards.

Northampton. – C. Leigh, back; E. R. Mobbs, F. Coles, W. Lloyd Gardiner, and J. H. Miles (captain), three-quarters; H. C. Palmer and T. H. Preston, half-backs; E. W. White, L. H. Johnson, J. W. Warren, A. Chalmers, G. Burke, G. Blunt, Welch, and R. J. Anrie, forwards.

There were 3,000 spectators present. Gloucester were the first to attack, but failure to field let in Northampton. Mobbs got to the ball first, but it was given touch-in-goal. Northampton kept up the pressure, and after a line-out close to the Gloucester line Coles sent out to Mobbs, who scored near the corner, Miles' kick going just outside the post.

On restarting, Gloucester went down the field with a rush. F. Smith, cross-kicking cleverly, Wright, with a good opening, passed forward to Powell. Hot work went on in the Northampton 25. An infringement in the scrum caused the homesters to be penalised, Romans placing a capital goal.

Coles gave Lloyd-Gardiner an opening, but he dropped the ball. Romans made his mark, but Mobbs ran back, and from a kick by Leigh Romans touched down. Gloucester showed nice passing, but two openings were lost.

Northampton got going, but Romans defended finely and sent them back. Gloucester touched down from a penalty kick by Welch and another penalty kick by Coles had a like effect. Romans caught the ball cleverly and found touch smartly in the face of a strong attack. Grand passing by Gloucester was cheered, and twice Wright all but scored.

Northampton broke away with almost a clear course, but Romans got across and sent to touch. The Gloucester forwards were seen to advantage in dribbles, and then the Northampton backs got going, Romans again coming to the rescue when a score looked certain.

Warren with a good opening dropped for goal, and gave a dead ball. The Gloucester forwards played well and got possession more frequently. Powell made a fine save from Miles, the last-named being held up on the line. Romans twice touched down. Gloucester went away and were pressing at the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 goal (p)
Northampton	1 try

On restarting Northampton took up the attack. Lloyd Gardiner, well placed, gave a good pass to Miles. Then smart following up caused Leigh to be robbed of the ball, and F. Smith beating Miles in a race for possession scored against the posts, Romans converting. Smith was hurt in getting the try, and retired for two or three minutes. Parham took his place.

White stopped a fine effort by Gloucester. Smith signalled his return by skilfully dribbling by Leigh, who had failed to field the ball. Nearing the goal he kicked across, and Purton scored – a highly creditable effort deservedly cheered. Romans failed to majorise. From the kick-out Northampton went off with a rare dash, Romans saving with difficulty. Gloucester exhibited capital dribbling, but Miles returned. Give and take play followed, the ball being quickly taken from one end of the field to the other.

Powell and Romans were smart in defence, and the Gloucester tackling was sure. Northampton hereabouts attacked very hotly. Romans saved what looked like a certain try. The homesters sent the ball over, but Romans ran out, and Gloucester got to the centre. Tall kicking between Leigh and Romans ended in favour of the latter, and scrummaging went on in the Northampton 25. Johns and Preston were cautioned by the referee for a threatening attitude. The Gloucester forwards used their feet well, and looked like scoring again, but the tackling was sure. Little came of a penalty against Gloucester. Then the Northampton forwards broke away, and after a round of passing Mobbs scored at the corner. Miles failed with the place, the ball falling short.

Gloucester followed up the kick-off smartly, but Northampton returned, and Mobbs again scored at the corner. Miles' place just failed. Northampton kept up the pressure, a penalty failing to bring relief. Judicious kicking gave Gloucester an advantage, but no score came.

RESULT :

Gloucester	2 goals (1p), 1 try (11 points)
Northampton	3 tries (9 points)

REMARKS.

Gloucester deserved their victory, the score being a fair indication of the merits of the play. Northampton, perhaps, had more chances, but the Gloucester defence was splendid.

Romans has done plenty of good work at Northampton, but never exhibited greater skill than to-day. Leigh was off colour. The three-quarters and halves were well matched, Powell marking Miles successfully.

Forward, there was not much to choose, Gloucester being better in scrum work and Northampton faster in the open. It was a capital game.

JC