

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1906.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

THE COUNTY CUP SEMI-FINAL.

GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD.

CITY TEAM ENTER THE FINAL.

FORESTERS BEATEN FAIRLY AND SQUARLY.

FIVE YEARS' RECORD GONE.

No football match in the Forest had aroused so much enthusiasm as to-day's contest between Gloucester and Cinderford. The teams have always been keen rivals, and notwithstanding the fact that the City had only once succumbed to the Foresters – and that by the narrow margin of a try to nil – the games at Cinderford have generally been pretty close.

The result of last week's friendly contest, which ended in a pointless draw, served to add to the interest in this afternoon's struggle, and expectations of a record crowd for the Cinderford ground were indulged in, but the weather was shocking and the ground a veritable mud-pool, and this affected the attendance considerably.

Last season Cinderford met Bristol in the second round of the cup, and at home drew with their powerful opponents, the scoring being 3 points each. In the re-play, at Bristol, Cinderford were beaten by a try to nil, after extra time.

These games showed the Foresters to be good cup fighters, and Gloucester fully recognised their task at Cinderford to-day was a severe one.

The illness of D. R. Gent deprived Gloucester of the services of their clever half-back, but fortunately Wood was available. Albert Hall played for Stephens, and Pegler stood down. The only absentee on the home side was W. Rhodes, who was kept out of the field owing to an injury.

The following were the teams : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	CINDERFORD.
G. Romans	Backs.	H. Hyett
A. Hudson	Three-Quarter	W. Smith (capt.)
J. Harrison	Backs.	J. Wright
E. Hall	"	H. Smith
C. Smith	"	O. Burgham
A. E. Wood	Half-Backs.	F. Niblett
A. Hall	"	T. Willstead
W. Johns (capt.)	"	A. Teague
A. Hawker	Forwards.	J. Hyndman
B. Parham	"	H. Ridler
G. Matthews	"	G. Bowkett
J. Merchant	"	J. Watkins
G. Vears	"	H. Trafford
W. Holder	"	A. Redding
H. Collins	"	G. Leighton

Referee : Mr. W. Palmer (Bristol).

Linesmen : Messrs. C. J. Woolf and J. H. Tratt.

THE GAME.

Gloucester won the toss, and deputed Cinderford to start down the slope. Wood was early penalised for off-side, and Holder failing to field was collared, but Wright, who picked up, passed forward to Burgham.

Hall relieved with a clever kick to centre, where some hot forward work was witnessed. Wood and Hall gained ground for Gloucester with useful punts, and Hyett being at fault the City pressed. Flying kicks by Cinderford relieved, but Romans punted back in fine style.

The homesters worked out of danger, but E. Hall kicked down, and Smith following up tackled Hyett. The same player was nearly over in the next minute. Playing in grand style, Gloucester attacked desperately, and but for the state of the ground would have scored. Hudson was nearly through after a sharp dash, and A. Hall was only held just outside. Hudson made his mark, but Romans' kick fell a long way short. Gloucester, however, kept up the pressure, and from a mark by Hawker Romans landed a fine goal.

Resuming, Harrison dribbled grandly, Hyett bringing off a fine save. A loose pass by Gloucester enabled Cinderford to reach the City 25, but the visitors quickly worked out of their quarter. In the Gloucester half Wood started a bout of passing, and following a brilliant run by Harrison, Hudson scored behind the posts. Romans failed at the place.

Splendid work by the Cinderford forwards caused pressure on the Gloucester line, but A. Hall came away with a brilliant run to the full-back, when he was collared from behind. Gloucester immediately got on the attack again, but the slippery ball was difficult to handle.

Cinderford made headway with a useful rush, but Gloucester came back again, Hyett being hotly pressed. Johns broke away from a scrum, but the City could not clear the defence. Gloucester continued to hold the advantage, but Burgham received and kicked to touch near the Gloucester line.

Harrison relieved, but A. Hall getting a kick charged down Cinderford were dangerous. The City quickly changed the venue, and centre play followed. The Gloucester forwards attacked with a strong burst, but the Foresters retaliated.

Soon afterwards the interval was called, with Gloucester in their opponents' half.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 3 points
Cinderford Nil

Hawker re-started, the kick being charged down, and the ball rebounding to Harrison, who sent to touch. From a kick by Burgham Romans knocked on, and Cinderford gained a footing in the City end. The home backs were started by Niblett, but little ground was gained.

A punt by Hawker was well followed up by the Gloucester forwards and Hudson, who dribbled splendidly but over-ran the ball when near Hyett. Immediately after Hyett touched down from a kick over the line.

On the drop-out Gloucester at once returned to their opponents' quarters, where mud-larking was continued with great keenness. From a throw-out Hawker dribbled close, but the ball went to touch a few yards outside. Cinderford relieved with kicks, and took the game to the Gloucester end, where Smith effected a good save.

A. Hall came away nicely from the scrum and passed to Matthews, who punted down to Hyett, who was pressed. He got rid of the ball, but Wood, who was well up, nearly scored. Cinderford worked out, but Gloucester came back, and after clever play by Wood, Collins scored a good try. The place kick failed.

Ensuing play was mainly forward, and the players presented a sorry spectacle. Gloucester generally held the mastery, and but for Hyett's excellent form they would have scored once or twice.

With one big rush the City looked all over scorers, but Hyett came to the rescue of his side again. The Cinderford forwards relieved with a good rush, but they were stopped at mid-field.

In the last few minutes Gloucester made an effort to increase their lead, but were not rewarded.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal (m) 2 tries (9 points)
Cinderford Nil

REMARKS.

The game was played under the worst possible conditions, but despite this fact some clever footwork was displayed.

Gloucester won on their merits, for in every department they clearly outclassed their opponents. The City forwards played on the top of their form, the whole pack doing splendidly.

Wood and A. Hall also did well at half, and the three-quarter line was never at fault. The try by Hudson was the result of a beautiful movement, in which all the backs took part. Romans and Hyett gave clever exhibitions at full-back.

Cinderford lost their five years' ground record, but they were beaten fairly and squarely on the day's play.