

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 1906.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. BATH.

LAST MATCH OF THE SEASON.

GLOUCESTER WIN BY A TRY.

E. HALL INJURED.

Gloucester journeyed to Bath today for the concluding match of the season. The City were very weakly represented, only half the regular side being available. The absentees included D. R. Gent, A. Hudson, J. Harrison, J. Stephens, W. Johns, and G. Vears.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – G. Romans, back; F. Smith, C. Smith, E. Hall, and H. Smith, three-quarter backs; A. Hall and H. Smith, half-backs; A. Hawker, B. Parham, G. Matthews, H. Collins, J. Merchant, W. Holder, R. Craddock, and F. Pyart, forwards.

Bath. – Parfitt, back; Brown, Meister, Timmins, and Lewis, three-quarter backs; Curtis and Russell, half-backs; Timmins, Cashnella, Watts, Perry, Adkin, Hobbs, Hatherall, and Hodges, forwards.

The ground was hard, the slight showers that fell making no appreciable difference. Bath heeled from the first scrum, but their halves lacked neatness, and no progress was made by getting the ball. Gloucester's backs got into motion, but the right winger was sent too close to touch to get across, being pushed out of play.

Bath's forwards did well, and T. Timmins got through with pretty footwork, but Meister, in gathering the ball, knocked on, and a grand opportunity for Bath was lost.

An exchange of kicks over the central line resulted in favour of Romans, whose punting was very clever. Bath were pressing, when E. Hall came through with a stylish run. In doubling he strained his knee and went off the field, Merchant filling his place in the quartette.

Russell dribbled on nicely into the Gloucester 25, but Romans turned the ball into touch. Play ruled slow and lifeless for some time. With only seven men in the pack Gloucester were unable to keep Bath from heeling out, and the homesters were on the attack for a longish spell. Gloucester's passing breaking down, Brown picked up and, dashing on, had only Romans to beat. He did not attempt to rush him, but gave the leather to Meister, who kicked on, thus giving away a fine chance.

Russell was active, and made a stylish dash, but his pass was wild and no one accepted it. Parfitt kicked well to touch when hard pressed, and kept Bath on the aggressive. The Gloucester forwards, however, took the ball to the Bath line, but the home back was very safe.

Gloucester started their backs in the Bath 25. The passing was clean, and a try seemed certain, but H. Smith unaccountably fell when a yard from the Bath line, and Bath saved. Gloucester kept up the attack to the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester Nil
Bath Nil

Bath were on the defensive directly after the re-start, Gloucester finding touch in their 25. By strong forward play Bath relieved and had not Romans fielded the ball surely, Bath would have gone strongly. As it was, Russell, dribbling finely, beat Romans in a race for the ball, but it knocked the corner post.

Parfitt knocking on at mid-way gave Gloucester a big slice of ground. Bath worked up a hot attack, and Brown had another grand chance, but fumbled. Bath's three-quarters got off, but Meister was tackled and lost the ball, which was kicked to the left. Brown missed badly, and let off F. Smith, who scored a lucky try, which Romans could not convert, the ball not rising.

Bath were frequently near Gloucester's line, and Hodges missed a penalty goal by inches, the ball striking the upright. Russell was almost over for Bath, but only a touch in goal resulted. Curtis was conspicuous for Bath, working the scrum grandly. After a good kick by Lewis the Gloucester backs muddled, and let off Hobbs, who went away with Lewis at his left, but Bath again lost a grand chance by lack of clean handling, Lewis knocking on with the Gloucester line at his mercy.

"Whacker" Smith made a fine dash for the ball as it was being passed along the Bath line, and securing it sprinted off, but he was pulled down. Gloucester then got the ball from the scrum, but they did not attempt passing, being content to kick to touch and keep their lead. The tackling was very deadly on both sides, the ball not getting much air. Matthews was prominent in some forward work, dodging cleverly, but his pass was anticipated. Even play continued to the finish.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 try (3 points)
Bath Nil

REMARKS.

It was not a scientific game, being marked by more strength than cleverness. Bath had many fine chances which, with a little more finesse, should have been turned to scoring, but they seemed to be too excited to do anything accurately. Romans was of material value to the visitors, saving them repeatedly by his safe fielding and grand touch-finding. Hall's accident placed Gloucester at a distinct disadvantage, but their try was a very lucky one.

GLOUCESTER A. v. ST. MARK'S.

CITY SECONDS LOSE THEIR GROUND RECORD.

Played at Kingsholm before a small attendance.

The teams were : –

St. Mark's. – J. Watts, back; A. Cole, C. Cook, S. Rust, and T. Smith, three-quarter backs; Lane and W. Dix, half-backs; H. Draper, S. Blunt, A. Thomas. F. Westbury, C. Mumford, W. Brown, F. Daniels, and Hopton, forwards.

Gloucester. – F. Welshman, back; H. Hughes, H. Cook, F. Rust, and F. Bloxsome, three-quarter backs; W. Worlock and W. Wooton, half-backs; J. Hall, H. Taylor, S. Hayward, J. Welshman, D. Hollands, H. A'Bear, G. Holford, and B. Rudman, forwards.

Referee : Mr. W. Gough.

Play at the start settled at midfield, but was chiefly of a scrambling forward nature. Pretty combination between Hughes and H. Cook enabled Gloucester to reach their opponents' 25, where F. Rust took a drop for goal, but failed to raise the ball. Gloucester continued to press, but the passing behind was too slow to be effective. Then Cook forced a minor with a kick over the line.

On the drop-out Dix dribbled nicely for St. Mark's, and the movement being well followed up the Gloucester lines narrowly escaped. The home team relieved by the aid of a penalty, but the Saints returned with a good burst and nearly scored. Gloucester worked out through Hughes, but play continued very scrappy and devoid of incident.

Useful kicking put the A team in a good position, but the backs failed to take advantage of an opening by Worlock. Next F. Rust broke through cleverly, and Hughes ran over, but the final transfer was forward.

Bloxsome missed a possible chance on the left wing through failure to hold the ball, and then H. Cook knocked on with a certain try in view. From a mark by J. Welshman, his brother took a shot for goal from the half-way, and only just failed with a lovely kick.

Gloucester kept up a strong pressure, but they failed to pierce the defence, though Bloxsome lost another try through losing the ball over the line.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester Nil
St. Mark's Nil

With the strong wind in their favour in the second half, St. Mark's at once got down in the home 25, but F. Rust and Bloxsome in turn relieved.

Even play followed till a fine dash by the St. Mark's right wing nearly gave him a try in the corner. Gloucester were hard pressed in the next few minutes, and Cook made a fine attempt to land a goal from a mark. The A team did better in subsequent play, and a lucky opening gave the forwards a good chance, but it was not taken.

St. Mark's came away after this, following a smart opening by Lane, and the home backs being at fault, the visitors were only stopped under the posts.

There was a slight delay owing to Lane being injured, and he had to be assisted off the field. Resuming, Dix received from S. Rust, and passing to Westbury, the Stroud forward dived over near the posts with a try, which was converted.

On the re-start St. Mark's quickly got on the attack again, and Westbury was only held up on the line. Worlock lead the home team in a good dribble, which was only stopped a few yards from the Saints' goal. Here S. Rust got off-side and Hayward landed a penalty goal. Play to the end favoured St. Mark's, but there was no more scoring.

RESULT :

St. Mark's 1 goal (5 points)

Gloucester A 1 goal (p) (3 points)

REMARKS.

This was the Seconds' first defeat of the season. Although weakly represented, Gloucester ought to have made the game safe in the first half, for they had several splendid chances of scoring.

The Saints were a nippy lot, and played a very keen game throughout. The victory was hailed with enthusiasm by their supporters.

JC