

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1906.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD.

FORESTERS AT KINGSHOLM.

FINE OPEN GAME.

CITY'S HANDSOME WIN.

The first of the two annual friendly fixtures between these clubs attracted a fairly numerous crowd to Kingsholm. Gloucester reverted to the old formation, Wood standing down, and Johns and Collins also rested. The visitors were short of Adams and Russell (forwards), but otherwise were at full strength. The teams took the field as follows : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	CINDERFORD.
G. Romans	Backs.	H. Hyett
C. Smith	Three-Quarter	O. Burgham
E. Hall	Backs.	W. Rhodes
J. Harrison	"	J. Wright
A. Hudson	"	W. Smith (capt.)
D. R. Gent	Half-Backs.	F. Niblett
J. Stephens	"	A. Hall
-	"	H. Smith
A. Hawker	Forwards.	A. Teague
B. Parham	"	J. Hyndman
G. Matthews	"	G. Bowkett
F. Pegler	"	H. Ridler
G. Vears	"	J. Watkins
J. Jewell	"	H. Trafford
J. Merchant	"	A. Redding
W. Holder	"	-

Referee : Mr. W. Palmer (Bristol).

THE GAME.

C. Smith, who captained the home team in the absence of Johns, won the toss, and deputed the visitors to kick-off against the wind and sun. Parham got in a fine return, Hyett having to run back to gather, but Vears tackled off-side, and the ball was brought back to the centre.

Cinderford were penalised at the scrum, and from the return kick Gent found touch nicely in the Foresters' half. From the ensuing line-out Gloucester gained a few yards, and then the City pack heeled, but Hudson knocked on. A couple of infringements followed in quick succession which kept play in the home half. Then the Gloucester passing went astray, and Cinderford dribbled down to Romans in the home end. Here Gent got the ball out smartly, and some clever handling worked out a fine opening for Hudson. Harrison, however, passed forward, and the movement was checked.

Centre play ensued, some smart work being exhibited by players on both sides. On the blind side of the scrum Gent fed Stephens, but the latter slipped when going nicely. Gloucester continued to heel cleverly, and Gent, getting possession, ran through smartly and handed to Stephens. Harrison, Hall, and Smith in turn handled, the latter completing a fine movement by scoring in the corner. Romans' shot for goal struck one of the uprights.

Cinderford dropped out, but Gloucester immediately returned to the attack, and following a cross-kick Hudson gathered neatly, and passing inside to Harrison, the latter scored. Romans added the extra points.

Cinderford re-started, and by clever kicking to touch gained a footing in the home half. Hawker sent out with a huge punt, which Hyett returned. Hall made his mark, and found touch at midfield. By the aid of a lucky flying kick Cinderford reached the home quarters, but Hall sent them back to the centre with a beautiful touch-finder.

For palpable off-side play by Hall (Cinderford), the visitors were penalised. Romans punted high, and Rhodes missing, the Gloucester forwards had a chance, but a knock-on spoilt it. A useful bit of footwork by one of the Cinderford outsiders took the ball to Romans, who was thrown into touch. From the ensuing scrum Gent got possession, but Stephens missed his pass. The ball rolled to Romans, who got in a big kick to Hyett. Hudson followed up and the return was prevented, but Gloucester failed to take advantage of a possible opening.

Some clever work by Hyett under difficulties was heartily recognised by the crowd. Gloucester got the ball out well, and a round of passing promised success. A couple of visitors, however, got round Hudson, and in being tackled the Gloucesterian was knocked out and had to retire to the touch-line.

Pegler was brought out to three-quarter on the game being resumed, and Stephens was conspicuous with a neat punt to Hyett. The latter failed to gather, and Parham coming along fielded and passed to Hawker. Vears later was given possession, and then Merchant, the latter running over with a try behind the posts. Romans goaled.

On the resumption Gloucester again showed up with some splendid combination, but a forward pass stopped progress. Cinderford now improved, and by a smart round of passing tested the home defence. Gloucester saved on the 25 line, but the Foresters returned to the attack and were nearly over in the corner. Gloucester had an anxious time for a couple of minutes, but from a pass back Romans punted clear.

Cinderford rushed back with loose footwork, and the City were again called upon to defend. Hawker passed back wildly in his own 25, but fortunately Harrison made no mistake with his clearance kick. Cinderford continued to press severely, but they were met with a stout defence. Romans came to the rescue of his side with a fine kick, and Gloucester improved their position considerably. Hyett, in attempting to cut up the field, was floored, and Parham, intercepting his pass transferred to Hall, who cross-kicked. There was every chance of a score but Harrison sent forward to Pegler.

Immediately Gent just missed a drop at goal with a sharp kick. Gent cleverly fielded the drop-out and started a bout of passing, but Smith could not clear the opposition. Then from a kick over the line Cinderford conceded a minor. On the drop-out Gloucester assumed the aggressive, and Stephens showed up with a brilliant dash through, working out a fine opening. Jewell, however, tucked the ball under his arm instead of feeding a colleague, and thereby lost a certain score.

Stephens immediately after was to the fore again with a nice effort, but Harrison passed forward with Hall and Smith nicely placed. After this Burgham got away for Cinderford, and there was a good chance of a score, but something went wrong at the critical moment.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	2 goals 1 try
Cinderford	Nil

Hawker resumed for Gloucester, who were still short of Hudson. Stephens replied to the return, the ball going to touch at the centre. A couple of good kicks by Cinderford gained ground, and from a short punt by Romans the visitors started an attacking movement. Burgham ran strongly, but Wright, to whom he passed, was stopped. After getting rid of Hall, Burgham immediately fell to the ground and was laid out, but he soon recovered. Gloucester were penalised on play being continued. Hyett had a shot for goal, but the ball just went wide of the posts.

The drop-out was well returned to the Gloucester half, where the visitors opened out the game. Stephens, however, snapped up an opponents' pass neatly, and sending to Parham the latter ran some distance, and then yielded to Smith, who raced home hotly pursued by several visitors. Romans failed with the place-kick.

Cinderford followed up the drop-out and got to the ball first, but knocked on. From the succeeding scrum Gloucester heeled, and the ball came along the line to Smith, who made a big effort to get away, but was unsuccessful.

Cinderford came away from the line-out, and with strong forward play got well inside the home 25. Here Hall fed Niblett, but the latter's pass was intercepted by Harrison, who ran clear, but the referee whistled him back for a knock-on.

Ensuing play was scrambling and slightly in favour of Cinderford. Good kicking by Romans, however, kept the visitors from being dangerous. Then in the open Holder fielded the ball splendidly and ran strongly to Hyett, when he passed to Matthews. The latter hit off an opponent and yielded to E. Hall, who completed a really fine movement by scoring behind the posts. Romans added the goal points.

Play was fast and exciting on the resumption, the Gloucester forwards showing up with some effective loose rushing. The Cinderford backs, however, warded off danger by clever kicks to touch. At length, from a long flying kick, E. Hall forced a minor.

Immediately on the drop-out Gloucester assumed the aggressive, Parham twice just failing to cross the line. Play was wholly in the Cinderford 25, and from a pretty combined movement E. Hall was only held a couple of yards outside. From the line-out Parham secured and dropped over with the sixth try. Romans goaled.

There was some very fast play on the resumption. Near the centre Gent started Stephens, who handed to Harrison. The latter ran to the wing, and then came back inside. With a clever feint he beat a couple of opponents and transferred to E. Hall, who burst away in grand style and, beating Hyett, scored one of the best tries of the match. Romans failed at goal.

Cinderford played up strongly on the restart, and H. Smith, intercepting a pass from Stephens, had a clear field with the exception of Romans. He, however, essayed a pass, which was not accepted, and a splendid opening was thrown away. For a few minutes Cinderford held their own but the close tackling of the Gloucester backs prevented much chance of a score.

In the last few minutes Cinderford had the better of the exchanges, and Wright taking advantage of a miss by Stephens, picked up and beat Romans, but fell a yard or so from the line. He let the ball go, and there was a scramble right on the line, but Gloucester managed to save.

Several scrums ensued in close proximity to the Gloucester goal, and the visitors struggled hard to effect a score. Their efforts, however, were not rewarded, and the City eventually relieved through Hawker, who got in a big punt to Hyett. The latter's return was charged down by Smith, and Harrison fielded with practically an open field. He, however, slipped, and was pounced upon. Soon afterwards the end came.

RESULT :

Gloucester 4 goals 3 tries (29 points)
Cinderford Nil

REMARKS.

Cinderford were clearly outclassed, but the number of points recorded against the Foresters rather flattered Gloucester. The heaviness of the scoring would suggest a one-sided game, and a runaway victory, but it was anything but this.

At times Cinderford displayed really good football, and with more finish to their attacking movements the home line might easily have been pierced on a couple of occasions. The Foresters played into the hands of Gloucester by reducing their forwards. It enabled the City pack to control the scrums at will, and in the first half especially the home backs were continually in possession.

The extra man outside was of little use in defence, as may be gathered from the fact that Gloucester notched no fewer than seven tries. What the score would have amounted to had Hudson been present all through the game cannot be accurately gauged, but it may be reasonably concluded that a few more points would have been added. The International had his lip badly cut when coming into contact with a couple of opponents, and was otherwise shaken.

Gloucester's cleverness behind the scrum proved the downfall of Cinderford. Admirably fed by the forwards, Gent was in his element, and he got the ball away in remarkable style. Occasionally the International had to contend with three opponents, but he tricked them cleverly time after time.

At outside half Stephens was also in delightful form. He took the majority of his passes beautifully, and worked out openings with excellent judgment.

In the three-quarter line some very fine play was witnessed. Harrison did not judge his transfers with his usual accuracy, and thereby several chances of scoring were lost, but otherwise he was capital. Hall played a very stylish game, and there can be no question as to his ability. His second try today was a beautiful effort.

"Whacker" Smith was particularly effective in all he did, and he easily had the whip-hand of his opponent. Hudson did not get much chance to shine during the brief period he was on the field, but the second try (by Harrison) came through a smart bit of play on his part.

At full-back Romans kicked a fine length, and Hyett, on the opposite side, gave a very creditable display. He was by no means responsible for the heavy defeat of his side.

Forward, Gloucester, until Pegler was placed at three-quarter, were distinctly superior in all phases of play. Afterwards matters were more even, and in the scrums Cinderford secured the ball a fair number of times. The City men excelled in the open, where Parham, Merchant, Holder, and Matthews were seen to advantage. Hawker frequently came in useful with big kicks, and Vears always followed up keenly.

Cinderford were best represented by Teague, Hyndman, and Ridler, but the whole seven worked whole-heartedly.

The visitors were not a success as a combination behind, though now and again the men shaped well. Of the half-backs, Niblett was the more conspicuous, and Burgham, at three-quarter, outshone his colleagues.

Cinderford are not to be judged on to-day's form, for they can do better, and at home Gloucester will find them a stiff side to overcome.

JC