

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1906.

TO-DAY'S MATCHES.

GLOUCESTER v. CLIFTON.

CLIFTONIANS' PLUCKY FIGHT.

SUBSTANTIAL WIN FOR THE CITY.

For this match at Kingsholm Gloucester were short of Gent and Hawker, but Romans, C. Smith, and E. Hall appeared.

Clifton brought a strong side, the visitors stating it was the best team they had turned out for years.

There was only a poor attendance of spectators, and the kick-off was ten minutes late. The ground had been watered, but was still very hard.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – G. Romans, back; C. Smith, E. Hall, A. Wood, and A. Hudson, three-quarters; A. Hall and J. Stephens, halves; B. Parham, W. Johns, G. Matthews, W. Holder, J. Merchant, G. Vears, F. Pegler, and H. Collins, forwards.

Clifton. – P. J. Slee, back; V. F. Eberle, E. W. Baker, N. H. B. Lyon, and G. F. Matthews, three-quarters; Cecil W. Baker and A. Gardiner, halves; E. J. Higham, A. J. Gardner, H. Clissold, W. W. Hoskin, E. Wordsworth, R. Fedden, F. R. R. Rudman, and P. A. Heming, forwards.

Referee : Mr. W. A. Thomas (Gloucester).

THE GAME.

Clifton started with a poor kick, and the game opened at the centre. The visitors heeled from the first scrum and started passing, but Hudson intercepted and ran beyond half way, where he was collared from behind. Smart heeling by the City forwards gave the Gloucester backs a chance, and some neat handling took place. Clifton, however, saved close in.

In the next minute Stephens initiated another bout, but a forward pass spoiled the movement. Gloucester pressed hard, but a fine kick by E. Baker sent the ball past Romans, who only sent straight to touch. Hudson changed the venue with a couple of good kicks, and then a run by E. Hall put Hudson in possession. The International, being cut off, punted across the ground, but Gloucester could not press the attack home.

The game hovered in the Clifton half until E. Baker, with a kick from a mark, found touch at the centre. A. Hall, from a pass by Stephens, broke away brilliantly, but his pass to Collins, with a good opening, was adjudged forward. Loose kicking by the visitors gained ground, but Hudson sent them back with a good kick.

Romans next punted, and, following up, prevented a return, this effort taking the game to the visitors' 25. Gloucester were doing good work in all departments, and at length from a cross-kick by Hudson, which was missed by Slee, Wood secured and crashed over with a good try. Romans failed at the place-kick.

Clifton dropped out, but Romans failed to gather. He, however, recovered his mistake, and punted well down. By strong forward work Clifton looked dangerous, but Wood pulled them up, though he was temporarily laid out.

Resuming, Gloucester worked to the centre but they were sent back by Cecil Baker. Stephens was prominent with some good work for the City, and later A. Hall broke away, but his pass to his brother went astray.

Gloucester pressed on, and Hudson put the visitors on the defensive with some good touch kicks. Wild passing lost the City ground, Eberle intercepting and running to beyond the centre. Here he passed to a colleague, but the ball was knocked on. Clifton heeled several times in succession, and though the passing of the backs was slow, subsequent kicks gained good slices of ground.

The game was fast and keen, but Clifton were holding their own just now. At length in their own 25 the Gloucester halves got away, and the ball came along the wing to Hudson, who made a great dash down touch. Reaching Slee, the Gloucesterian cut inside, but in doing so he lost ground, and E. Baker got up and sent him to touch.

Gloucester made a bold bid to score after this, Johns being only held up on the line. For an infringement Gloucester were penalised. The resultant kick went to Romans, who ran across and passed to E. Hall. The centre tricked a visitor cleverly, and then made a fine attempt to clear the opposition, but he was brought down when a few yards outside, being winded in falling to the ground. The ball got loose, and a forward passed out to Stephens. The latter fed Wood, who sent to "Whacker" Smith, but the attack failed.

Clifton worked out of danger, and Cecil Baker sneaking a pass made considerable headway before being collared. This effort encouraged Clifton, who went very close for a try. A kick by E. Baker went to touch right on the Gloucester line, and it was an anxious moment for the home team. Wood snapped up an opponent's pass, and came clear away to the full-back, but Hudson missed the pass with an open field.

After this the home backs handled beautifully, and Hudson had a dash for the line, but Slee effected a fine tackle. Then Clifton burst away with a grand dribble, but Wood gathered the ball neatly off the ground, and passed to E. Hall. The latter sent to Hudson, but the International hesitated, and was pulled down outside. In the next few minutes Gloucester had several chances of scoring, but Clifton's defence was very fine, and nothing further was done.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 1 try
Clifton Nil

Parham restarted for Gloucester, and play settled near the centre. The Cliftonians were the first to heel, and Cecil Baker kicked to the left wing. Wood, however, robbed E. Baker of possession, and the ball rolled into touch.

Gloucester made progress with a forward burst, but A. Hall spoiled a possible chance by failing to hold. From a scrum Stephens sent to his partner, who again missed. Stephens, however, secured again, and kicking to the left corner the ball went over the line, and Hudson scored an easy try. Romans' shot for goal went under the bar.

E. Hall replied finely to the kick out, and later Wood put in a grand touch-finder with the Clifton forwards on top of him. Gloucester were busy behind the scrum just now, and Wood, after being checked in a run, got up again and nearly scored.

Next E. Baker intercepted a home pass, but "Whacker" Smith effected a deadly tackle. In some loose play A. Hall gathered, and with a fine run sent Matthews round behind the posts. Romans added a goal.

Gloucester continued on the attack on the resumption, and but for a forward pass Wood had a certain try. On the other wing a similar thing happened, a forward transfer robbing Hudson of a try. Clifton played up pluckily, being especially clever in the loose, but they seldom got out of their 25.

The Gloucester forwards, led by Parham, put in one superb dash which took them past Slee and over the line, but the ball rolled awkwardly and only a minor resulted. Gloucester made some spirited attacks, but there was something lacking at the critical moment, and more than one try was lost as a consequence.

Eventually, a kick to Slee was followed up by "Whacker" Smith, who secured, and passed out, with the result that E. Hall touched down an easy try. Romans failed at goal.

On the restart there was a few minutes of even play, but Gloucester once more asserted themselves, and following sharp passing between Stephens and A. Hall, Hudson was given possession. With a splendid dash the wing man went for the corner, and though partially tackled he got the ball down over the line amidst cheers. Both Hudson and Slee were slightly injured, but were able to resume. The place kick by Wood was unsuccessful.

Clifton restarted, and some determined forward play was witnessed. Gloucester, however, held their own, and Parham, following a grand forward rush, picked up and finished a fine effort by scoring a try. Wood landed the extra points.

The visitors resumed at the centre, and taking advantage of a mistake by Romans, dribbled to the 25. Here Stephens fed A. Hall, who ran across before passing. The ball was intercepted by Eberle, who raced away. E. Hall collared his man from behind, but Eberle managed to pass to Lyon, who crossed in the corner. The place kick failed.

Following the drop-out, Hudson made a fine dash down the line, and would have scored but for his stepping into touch. From another pass Hudson made another big effort, but a Cliftonian tackled him splendidly.

Before the end E. Baker intercepted a Gloucester pass, and put in a good run. He was checked by Romans, but the visitors again secured the ball, and made strenuous efforts to score. Gloucester, however, succeeded in keeping their lines intact, though it was a near thing.

RESULT :

Gloucester 3 goals 4 tries (27 points)
Clifton 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

Although beaten by a substantial margin, Clifton put up a capital game, and Gloucester had to work hard for all their points. In all respects the game was far in advance of that of last week, and right to the end play was contested with a keenness and vigour that bore testimony to the men's condition.

One great feature of the match was the splendid tackling of the visitors. But for this fact Gloucester's score would have undoubtedly reached formidable dimensions, for the City team were repeatedly attacking.

Clifton had a particularly strong pack of forwards, and though out-mancœuvred in the scrums they did magnificently in the loose. At times they swept the field with their dashing footwork, and against a less experienced side they would have been credited with more than one try.

Hoskin, Wordsworth, Higham, and Clissold were a noticeable quartette for special work in all departments, but their colleagues were little inferior.

The Gloucester eight were distinguished for sound work, and they, too, performed with great effect in the loose. Parham played a wonderfully fine game in the open, and with Matthews and Johns, was the more prominent of the home forwards.

The Gloucester half-backs were fairly well served by the front, and Stephens, who worked the scrums in the absence of Gent, got the ball away in smart style. He worked untiringly throughout, and in Albert Hall he had a capable colleague. The latter did a number of smart things, but now and again he was tempted to hold on too long. This enabled the Clifton three-quarters to get up and do a lot of spoiling and intercepting. The Clifton halves, Gardiner and Cecil Baker, were outclassed as a pair, but by no means performed badly.

The Gloucester three-quarter line was good and bad by turns. At times the men displayed effective combination, but there were a number of mistakes in handling. Several of these occurred when the defence was apparently beaten, so that more than one try was thrown away.

In the centre Wood shaped well, and gave further evidence of his ability as a class footballer. His presence in the third line considerably strengthens the defence, whilst his powerful kicking proved of great service. Wood played to "Whacker" Smith, and after a few games together the pair should form a strong right wing.

E. Hall played a pretty game, and was frequently conspicuous for clever and resourceful play. There is a slight tendency to hesitation at times, however, which spoiled one or two good efforts. Hudson was a marked man, but despite this fact the International was able to get in some telling runs. He also kicked with judgment, and his play all round indicates a return to his old form. Eddie Baker and Eberle played a strong game for Clifton, and the wings were more than useful.

Romans made one or two mistakes at full-back, but no serious result followed. On the whole he kicked well, and Slee was also good for Clifton. The latter had a tremendous amount of stopping to do, and he came through a severe ordeal with distinct credit.