

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1921.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER LOSE AT COVENTRY.

FORWARDS PLUCKY, BUT OUTCLASSED.

BACKS NOT IN FORM.

It was practically a reserve Gloucester team Sid Smart had under his charge to-day at Coventry. A similar thing happened when the first match was played at Kingsholm last month, and on that occasion the City triumphed by 3 goals (2 d) 1 try (16 points) to 1 penalty goal (3 points). At home Coventry are a stronger proposition, and though the reserves were fully expected to put up a good show, it was rather too much to expect the side to repeat the victory at Gloucester.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : J. C. Collett.

THREE-QUARTERS : N. Daniell, W. Washbourne, E. H. Hughes, and S. R. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS : G. Poole and A. Robbins.

FORWARDS : S. Smart (captain), F. Mansell, M. Evans, S. Bayliss, H. G. Mountford, A. Wright, C. Mumford, and H. W. Collier.

COVENTRY.

BACK : J. Morton.

THREE-QUARTERS : F. M. Davies, R. A. Clarke, H. J. Pemberton, and G. Nelson.

HALF-BACKS : G. L. Moss and A. Elton.

FORWARDS : E. Blowers, T. Carter, L. Williams, G. Poppe, J. L. Cruickshank, A. Hill, W. Windridge, J. Montgomerie or S. Bones.

Referee : Mr. Wilkins (London).

THE GAME.

Smart started, and Coventry heeled from the first scrum and made a burst, but were pulled up. Gloucester made a dash for the line, but Pemberton saved with a good kick to touch. Coventry were controlling the scrums, and Nelson securing rushed down the wing, but Washbourn tackled well and pulled him down. Gloucester were penalised in front of their goal. Morton missed an easy chance, and Daniell fielded, raced down the wing, and punted. Morton was pulled down, and the Gloucester forwards dribbled over, Hughes touching down. The goal kick failed.

Coventry found touch in the corner, and from a scrum on the line Elton ran round and scored near the posts. Pemberton goaled.

Gloucester pressed again, but Coventry relieved. Pool got the ball out nicely, and the threes handled, but the ball went to the ground, and Daniell was unable to prevent it going to touch. Gloucester were now doing better in the scrums, and Robbins showed up well in a strong burst. Then Collett gained a good slice of ground with a long touch-finder.

Coventry were penalised for feet up, and Robbins had a try for goal but missed, and Morton found touch at midfield again. The Gloucester threes handled, but Pemberton, who was playing a fine game, again saved after Morton had been robbed of the ball.

There was little to choose between the teams, but the visiting threes were getting more of the ball. Wright headed a short burst, but his pass went astray. Davies then made a spectacular run down the field, but the Gloucester defence was too keen. Robbins eased the pressure upon Gloucester, and then the visitors were penalised. Nelson then scored from a line-out for Coventry, Pemberton failing at goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

COVENTRY	1 goal, 1 try
GLOUCESTER	1 try

Gloucester had been pressing prior to the interval, and once had the line at their mercy, but a forward pass spoiled the movement. On the resumption the visiting forwards worked to the Coventry quarter, but the home team relieved with a penalty kick.

Mumford, receiving from Smart, was pulled down, and Coventry rushed half the length of the field, but Collett got back and turned the ball to touch. Daniell cut in and ran splendidly, but he was pulled down.

Collett had a try for goal from a penalty, but failed, and then the visiting threes handled beautifully, but Hughes found the defence too keen. Gloucester were pressing strongly now, but they could not seem to do the right thing.

Pemberton put in another pretty run, which put his side well up. Morton kept them in position with some good touch-finders, and the City were again hard pressed. Robbins and Crowther made a nice run down the wing, but Morton fielded the wing man's punt.

The Coventry forwards were playing well in the loose and showing some bright football, their threes taking all their chances. Gloucester were penned in their quarter, and had hard work to keep their line intact.

Off-side by Elton gave Gloucester relief, but from a scrum Elton got the ball out nicely, and Pemberton and Nelson made a fine dash for the line. Gloucester saved, but from another scrum Elton served Moss, and the fly half went over with a clever try. Pemberton's kick was charged down.

Gloucester made an invasion into the Coventry half, but were quickly ejected. The Gloucester threes now got going, but Morton saved. Daniell went over, but was brought back.

RESULT :

COVENTRY 1 goal, 2 tries (11 pts.)
GLOUCESTER 1 try (3 points.)

REMARKS.

Coventry were without doubt the better side. Their threes got more of the ball, and Pemberton was a tower of strength. The Gloucester forwards played pluckily, but were outplayed, and the threes could not do anything right. Poole was outclassed by Elton, but Robbins played a good game. Collett was in form but Morton helped his side wonderfully.

J. H. H.

JC