

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1921.

FOOTBALL.

GLO'STER'S GREAT WIN AT NORTHAMPTON.

FINE DISPLAY BY THE FORWARDS.

DIX AND MILLINGTON IN FORM.

Gloucester fulfilled their first away engagement of the season to-day, at Northampton, and the result was awaited with more than ordinary interest. Last year the City had to acknowledge defeat from the East Midlanders, and with the Westerners somewhat unsettled this season hopes of avenging that reverse were none too rosy, especially after the moderate performance at home against Bath. Northampton, however, started none too well, losing to their keen rivals at Bedford last week by 6 points to 5.

Gloucester had two new players on trial this afternoon in J. Collett (full back) and Major Roderick (forward); whilst there was another change last evening, Washbourn displacing Robbins at left wing three-quarter.

Collett, who has only recently come to the City, where he is engaged in business with Mr George Brace at the Shirt Works, is an old public schoolboy, and has yet to win his spurs in first-class football. The Gloucester Committee fully recognised the experiment was somewhat risky; but Collett's form at practice was so promising as to warrant a trial. Roderick has had a good experience with Llanelly, London Welsh and the Army, and was reported a good scrummager with plenty of weight.

T. Burns, the Second Team captain, appeared at centre three-quarter, a position he had previously occupied with credit. The third line was a useful one, but lacked the presence of an outstanding player to give confidence and stability to the side.

Northampton made several changes from the team beaten at Bedford. Williamson, the veteran half-back, re-appeared as scrum-worker, and three new three-quarters were introduced in Binyon, Piper, and R. C. Jones. The latter is the old Neath player, who was kept out of the field for the greater part of last season owing to a damaged knee, for which he underwent an operation; and Piper is a New Zealander.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : J. Collett.

THREE-QUARTERS : W. Washbourn, T. Burns, D. J. Brown, and N. Daniell.

HALF-BACKS : W. Dix and T. Millington.

FORWARDS : S. Smart (captain), G. Holford, T. Voyce, F. W. Ayliffe, A. Hall, J. Harris, A. Wright, and Major Roderick.

NORTHAMPTON.

BACK : J. G. Read.

THREE-QUARTERS : J. C. Binyon, J. G. Piper, R. C. Jones, and T. M. Markham.

HALF-BACKS : G. Williamson and H. Sambrook.

FORWARDS : A. G. Bull, A. Luck, H. Griffin, C. Tebbitt, A. Burke, Capt. Nailer, G. Tyrrell, and G. Denton.

Referee : Mr. F. W. Nicholls (Leicester).

THE GAME.

The conditions were perfect for a fast, open game, and there was an attendance of about 3,000 when the game started. Northampton were penalised for off-side at the first scrum, and Millington, with a beautiful touch-finder, sent play to the home 25.

Strenuous forward play followed, ending in Northampton clearing. Collett gathered well from a loose rush and got in his return nicely, and later Voyce ran strongly, but the tackling was good. Near midfield Dix opened out, and Millington cut through sharply and passed to Brown. Burns handled in turn and raced up to Read and then yielded to Washbourn, who scored wide out. With a lovely kick Millington converted, and Gloucester early had a five points' lead.

Northampton resumed with lively forward play, which kept the game in the Gloucester end for a time. A smart rush took the home players close, but Sambrook mulled and the City cleared cleverly. Back Northampton went to near the line, but a big kick sent Gloucester to the centre. From passing Binyon was travelling well down touch when he was upset by Millington. For not putting the ball in straight Dix was penalised, and Luck taking a kick, landed a goal from a favourable position.

On resuming two penalties were awarded Gloucester in quick succession, Millington making headway with the resultant kicks. Play was keenly contested, the Northampton forwards playing a dashing game in the loose and tackling well.

Gloucester were hard pressed for a period, until a big punt sent them well out of danger. Midfield play ensued, Gloucester twice getting the ball out but nothing was done. Then from some dribbling a home forward picked up and threw wide to Binyon, who dashed over and scored a good try. Luck added the goal points, and Northampton took the lead.

Gloucester restarted with vigour, and faulty play by Read allowed the City to get dangerous. The Gloucester forwards were all but over, a scrum being ordered five yards out. There Dix sharply fed Millington, and Brown receiving, the centre beat the defence and scored. Millington kicked another fine goal, and once more the visitors were in the ascendant.

Gloucester showed up strongly on the resumption, and Read failing Northampton were in danger. Burns missed a certain try through failing to accept a pass from Dix, and then Voyce was only held up on the line. Northampton had several other narrow escapes, until a big kick by Sambrook brought welcome relief. The home team attacked stoutly but could not score.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

GLOUCESTER 2 goals
NORTHAMPTON 2 goals (1p)

The first half had been splendidly contested forward, being exceptionally keen. On the whole, however, Gloucester deserved their lead, and with a bit of luck might easily have had another couple of tries. Collett had shaped extremely well, his kicking being of splendid length.

Gloucester opened the second half in good style, but forward transfers spoiled a couple of promising openings. From a flying kick Brown fielded, and though closely pressed dropped a clever goal with his left foot. This success came early, and was a smart effort.

Gloucester shone in some good work on the resumption, but the passing was not clean. Gloucester continued the pressure, and Voyce had two drops for goal, but the ball fell short, though the attempts were meritorious ones. Try as they would Northampton could not clear, and Milling[ton], receiving from Dix, cut through and, beating a couple of opponents, scored between the posts. The same player converted, and Gloucester were 11 points up.

Following the kick-off Northampton did better until smart passing by the City and a capital run by Washbourn transferred operations to the home quarters. Useful kicking brought relief to the home team, when Collett was forced to kick straight to touch. Millington soon put Gloucester down, and a grand forward burst was not stopped until the Northampton line was reached. The visitors exerted keen pressure, and Dix getting the ball to Millington, the latter scored near the posts, the try being again converted.

Up to this point in this half Gloucester had shown clear superiority, the forwards playing well together and the backs doing capital work, though there was a lack of judgment in passing, the ball being too often thrown forward with the men nicely placed.

A kick being charged down gave Northampton an opening, but Hall gathered and with a tremendous burst got clean through to Ruck and started passing, but it broke down at the critical moment. Penalty kicks enabled Northampton to hold their own for a time, but the City backs came away beautifully to beyond the centre, where Burns was brought down.

Soon afterwards the Gloucester halves opened out again, but with Millington over the line from a re-pass the referee whistled for "forward." Another passing move initiated by Voyce failed, and Northampton dribbled to the Gloucester line, where Daniell kicked dead from the field of play. Towards the end Northampton made one or two spasmodic bursts, but as a side they were clearly outclassed, and Gloucester finished easy winners.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER : 5 goals (1d), 24 pts.

NORTHAMPTON 2 goals (1p), 8 pts.

REMARKS.

It was a notable victory, and in every respect thoroughly deserved. Northampton made something of a fight in the first half, but later they were eclipsed in all phases of play. The City forwards re-established their reputation to-day. Once they got thoroughly settled down there was no holding them, and some of the rushes were irresistible. All played a sterling game, with Hall, Voyce, and Holford in great form.

Roderick scrummaged splendidly and did some sound tackling. At half, the Dix-Millington combination was well-nigh perfect. The vice-captain himself played a noteworthy part in the triumph, scoring two tries and kicking four goals, besides taking part in most of the attacking movements.

The three-quarters were better than the home line, and with a little more judgment in handling would have beaten the defence more often. Collett has every reason to be satisfied with his initial display. He fielded well, and his kicking was of splendid length and direction. With experience he should train into a very fine full back.

And now for the Harlequins.

W.B.

GLOUCESTER A DEFEAT THE TIN PLATERS' SECONDS.

A DISAPPOINTING DISPLAY.

Gloucester A played their first home match of the season, Lydney A being their opponents.

The only change in the team was L. Tovey (Gordon League) for Washbourn, who had gone with the First Fifteen to Northampton.

Teams : –

Gloucester A. – R. James; J. Phelps, H. Woodward, L. Tovey, and S. R. Crowther; T. Gough and W. Hughes; C. Mumford, J. F. Lawson, S. Bayliss, F. Mansell, E. Richardson, S. L. Smith, T. Taylor, and L. Mountford.

Lydney A. – T. Stone; G. Bartlett, B. Downing, W. Robbins, and H. Davis; J. Davis and E. Miles; Ben Gardiner, F. Thomas, G. Tyler, E. Darters, J. Darters, L. Rees, and T. Davis.

Referee : Mr J. Curtis.

Gloucester set the ball in motion, and Lawson was conspicuous with a strong burst, but Stone secured and put in a fine touch-finder. Then Gloucester began to get the ball out, and the threes handled several times, but over-eagerness led to some scrappy passing.

The home team were the first to score, Bayliss getting over with a simple one from a line-out in the Lydney 25. Gough was doing some splendid work not only at the base of the scrum, but in the loose also.

Gloucester, after conceding a minor, worked back to the Lydney 25 with good forward footwork, but the visitors came away and James showed up well with a nice kick to touch.

Securing a penalty kick for legs up in the scrum, the Lydney back essayed a kick for goal, and opened his side's score with a well-judged effort.

Lydney were now putting in some strenuous work, and were severely testing the home defence, when Lawson again saw his chance and led a rush to the Tinplaters' quarter, where the ball went to touch.

The visitors were now on the defensive, and after an excellent round of passing, initiated very smartly by Gough, Crowther had a fine opening, but again failed to take his pass. Play had settled in the Lydney quarter, but it was some time before Gloucester could do anything more. Then from a melee near the line Lawson fell over with a try, which James failed to convert.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 2 tries
Lydney A 1 goal (p)

Gloucester had not done anything special in the first half, and play was very scrappy on the resumption, with Lydney having the better of the game territorially. Play was at last taken to the Lydney 25, and Tovey touched down, but was called back, and after some anxious moments the visitors worked clear.

The heeling of the City forwards was by no means clean, but Gough was opening up the game as well as possible, only to find his work nullified by the slovenly work of the threes. The City were weakened by the loss of Mansell, who was injured and had to be carried off.

Play continued to be scrappy and devoid of notable incidents until Lydney working into the Gloucester territory, E. Miles picked up and dropped a very fine goal, giving his side a one-point lead.

Following this reverse Gloucester pressed to the Lydney 25, and some rough play was seen, the Tinplaters being penalised for tripping. Then the City forged ahead, Crowther scoring wide out after the best display of passing of the afternoon in which the halves and threes all participated. James failed to convert, but made amends a little later when he kicked a penalty goal.

Mansell had returned, but Lydney lost a man, ordered off the field for rough play just before the finish.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 2 goals (p), 2 tries (12 pts.)
Lydney A 2 goals (1d, 1p) (7 pts.)

REMARKS.

At one time it looked very much as though Gloucester A would go under, but being a point behind put some ginger into them, and all was well so far as the score was concerned.

Taken as a whole, the game was disappointing. It may have been that Lydney A were a particularly strong side – they certainly played with commendable vigour – but still the home team was weak in all departments except at scrum half, where Gough played a really clever game. He was not supported as he should have been by Hughes, who often failed to take his passes, and when he did get the ball forgot that it was his duty to feed the threes.

Throughout the game there were only a couple of convincing passing movements, the whole line generally handling very raggedly. However, with more practice in combination they are capable of much better play.

James, while kicking well when he had plenty of time, was hardly reliable, and had much difficulty in clearing when pressed. Stone, on the other hand, played a really good game. The Gloucester forwards started well, but found the Lydney pack quite a match in the later stages.

JC