

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1921.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER WIN EASILY AGAINST NORTHAMPTON.

SCRAPPY AND DISAPPOINTING GAME.

MILLINGTON'S SUCCESSFUL GOAL-KICKING.

For the return match with the East Midlanders at Kingsholm, Gloucester were short of Smart and Lawson, on the injured list; but the side fielded was regarded as fully capable of repeating the result of the first fixture at Northampton, when Gloucester recorded a capital victory by 5 goals (1d) (24 points), to 2 goals (1p) (8 points). W. H. Udy (the New Zealander) and A. G. Bull were prominent absentees from the ranks of the visitors, and there were several other changes from the team announced. The weather was bright and fine, but the attendance was below average. The teams were : –

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : A. J. Kerwood.

THREE-QUARTERS : N. Daniell, F. Webb, E. H. Hughes, and W. Washbourne.

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

FORWARDS : M. Evans, G. Holford, T. Voyce, F. W. Ayliffe, A. Hall, J. Harris, Major Roderick, and H. W. Collier.

NORTHAMPTON.

BACK : A. Tearle.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. C. Jones, Ll. Sambrook, S. Chaplin, and W. Sturgess (Nuneaton).

HALF-BACKS : T. Curtis and E. Stretton.

FORWARDS : T. Luck, H. Griffin, J. C. Binyon, J. Merry, C. P. Tebbitt, E. Coley, F. Fidgett, and G. Woolnough.

Referee : Mr. J. T Curtis.

THE GAME.

The start was six minutes late, and then Gloucester fielded short of Harris, who, however, came on a couple of minutes later. Northampton kicked off to Holford, who started passing, but the ball went astray, and the visitors benefited. Some loose forward work followed, and the ball coming out to Jones, the latter dropped for goal, but only a minor resulted.

Gloucester attacked on the drop-out, and Washbourne, fielding a high kick cleverly, tried to get away, but was well tackled. Play was contested in the visitors' half, and one or two chances of scoring that came to the home men were thrown away by faulty handling. From one round of passing Hughes served Washbourne, but the wing man could not beat the defence.

Subsequent operations were wholly fought out in the Northampton 25, but the Gloucester players continued to make mistakes. The City, however, persevered, and from a pass by Dix, Millington burst through and scored a smart try, which the same player converted.

Northampton resumed, and centre play followed. The visitors heeled, but poor passing ensued and ground was lost. Dix opening out, the ball was got across to Washbourne, but the latter failed to handle. Up to this point mistakes had been very numerous, and play rendered very scrappy. A penalty against Northampton for off-side enabled Kerwood to find touch well inside the visitors' 25. Bad play lost the position, and Northampton rushed to the other end with loose footwork, Hughes saving just in time.

The City forwards changed the venue with a good rush, but Gloucester infringed at the scrum, and the referee awarded a penalty. Tebbitt took a drop for goal, but a fine kick went wide, and Kerwood punted out well to touch. A break-away by Dix set the Gloucester backs on the move, but the men were too near touch to do anything effective.

Tearle, being heavily tackled, sustained a cut face, and had to retire to the touch-line for attention. Gloucester got on the attack again, but the passing broke down, and nothing but a minor resulted. On the drop-out Northampton played up strongly, and taking advantage of mistakes by the home side gained a good position in front of the home goal. From the ensuing scrum Curtis secured and, with a sharp dash, went through the defence and scored a good try a few yards from the posts amidst encouraging cheers. Tebbitt missed the goal points. The Gloucester defence was certainly at fault in allowing this try to be scored, but the play of the home men altogether was very moderate.

On the restart Kerwood showed up with some fine touch-kicking, and then the City backs [word unreadable] smartly up to a point. Dix punted ahead, but four City players who followed up over-ran the ball, and a visitor picked up and kicked back. A strong run by Voyce looked promising for a score, but the passing again broke down with a good opening.

Playing a loose, rushing game, Northampton upset the tactics of the home men, whose play lacked finish and judgment. Daniell, with a sprint down touch and kick, gained some 20 yards or so, but the game quickly came back to mid-field. Here Curtis was penalised for not putting the ball in straight, and from the kick the ball went over the line for a minor.

Dix received the ball from the drop-out and passed to Voyce, who dashed up the centre of the field and passed, but the movement was checked on the 25-line. Gloucester had the better of the exchanges, but there was still a lot to be desired in the play of the home men. At length Millington was sent away by Dix, and Webb and Hughes in turn handled, only to see Washbourne fail to accept the transfer. The wing man, however, received the ball and passed inside to Collier, who fed Voyce, for the International to score near the posts. Millington added the goal points. Soon after the interval was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
GLOUCESTER 2 goals
NORTHAMPTON 1 try

Gloucester resumed, and early on Webb brought off a capital run to the full-back, but his pass to Daniell was not accepted. Next Webb punted across to the left wing, where Washbourne gathered and tried hard to get over, but he stepped into touch. Gloucester pressed determinedly from scrums near the line, but they could not beat the defence, and eventually Northampton gained relief as the result of a kick over the line.

Try as they would the City could not get going properly, though all the play was in the Northampton half. Hughes made one pretty run down touch, but succumbed to numbers. Then the same player, in attempting to drop a goal, sent the ball all along the ground and under the cross-bar.

Feeble play by the home players on the re-start allowed Northampton to reach the City quarters, where Kerwood was tackled in possession. A nice round of passing by the Gloucester backs ended in Hughes punting ahead, but Jones got back and saved cleverly. Wild passing by Gloucester gave away their position, Jones kicking ahead and giving his side a big advantage. Gloucester were hard pressed for a couple of minutes, and Chaplin forced a minor with a fruitless drop at goal.

Gloucester shone in a good rush on the drop-out and again the visitors' lines were in danger. But there was no finish to the home attacks, and with Northampton playing very keenly they kept their line intact. A clever effort by Curtis, who dribbled through nicely, gave Northampton a large slice of ground, and some desperate work followed in the City half. Jones brought off an exceedingly tricky run and pass to Chaplin, but the latter could not hold the ball with an open line.

Working together strongly, the visitors beat the home forwards in some loose rushing, and Kerwood was subjected to some pressure. He came out of the ordeal all right and the Gloucester line escaped.

By dint of hard following up the City made headway, and Daniell was prominent with a nice run, which took him to the full-back, where he was tackled. He, however, dropped the ball, and Webb being handy picked up and went behind the posts, for Millington to kick his third goal.

From the re-start, Kerwood started a bout of passing, and six or seven home players handled before the movement was checked. Gloucester went further ahead, and Dix, working out a pretty opening, sent Harris over with the fourth try, which Millington failed to convert.

With this scoring Gloucester took the game in hand, and gave the ball plenty of air. But risks were taken, and once a visitor intercepted and raced down to Kerwood, who effected a fine save and clearance.

Gloucester, getting the ball out, there was a series of exchanges, ending in Daniell being served at mid-field. Sprinting hard, the right winger beat the opposition for speed and scored a fine try, which Millington goaled. These three tries had come in rapid succession, and showed the home team at their best.

Resuming, Northampton played up with determination, and set up a warm attack. Jones and Chaplin tried hard to break through, but the defence was sound. When looking dangerous once, the visitors got off-side, and Gloucester cleared by the aid of the penalty.

With a loose forward rush the City reached mid-field, where Dix punted past the full-back. Daniell came along and had a fine opening, but he misjudged the bounce of the ball and lost a certain try.

Gloucester attacked to the end, and just before the final whistle Millington added to the City's lead with a penalty goal.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 5 goals (1p) 1 try (26 pts.)
NORTHAMPTON 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

Gloucester won easily enough in the end, but for three-parts of the game the City players could not seem to do anything right. Chances innumerable were literally thrown away in the first half, and the play generally was of such a character that the only excuse I can offer is that the men had not got over the hard holiday programme.

Northampton came very weak, but disorganised sides have often upset "good things," and at one period this afternoon it really appeared as though the East Midlanders would spring a surprise. Fortunately the City realised the position in time, and there was a bright period in the second half when the result was settled beyond all doubt.

Northampton, with the exception of Curtis (at scrum half) and Jones (at centre three-quarter), were a moderate lot behind the scrum, but the forwards played a hard, bustling game, and often upset the tactics of the home front. Tebbitt, Luck, and Griffin especially worked untiringly for their side, and by keen following up and deadly marking rendered invaluable service.

Curtis was very nippy at the base of the scrum, and he fairly caught the home defence napping when he scored. But the best play for the visitors was R. C. Jones, who ran strongly, kicked with judgment, and did a vast amount of saving. Had he been well supported Northampton would have made much closer fight of it.

The Gloucester players as a whole were off-colour. The forwards were ragged in their punting, and there was an absence of the usual finish and judgment in attacking movements. There was a great improvement in the second half, when they took part in several [word unreadable] bouts of passing, and used their feet well.

Dix and Millington did a lot of good work, but a number of passes went astray this afternoon, and knocks on were also of frequent occurrence. The three-quarters suffered from the same complaint, and all four in turn made mistakes.

There were times, too, when the men stood too far back, and transfers were attempted long before the immediate opponent was reached. Daniell was none too well served, but the right-winger showed a clean pair of heels to the defence when he ran over the line from half-way.

Kerwood reached his best form to-day, and gave a fine all-round display. His saving and tackling were alike excellent, and his kicking was of fine length and generally found touch.

Frank Ayliffe and Dix have both been notified to be in attendance at Twickenham next Saturday for the International trial in case their services will be required.

Next week : Gloucester v. Leicester, at Leicester; Gloucester A v. Whitecroft, at Kingsholm.

W.B.

WEST END DEFEAT GLOUCESTER A.

A STRENUOUS FORWARD GAME.

There was a big crowd on Castle Meadow in anticipation of a keen game between West End, who had their ground record to preserve, and Gloucester A. In 14 matches this season the home team had been defeated only once, and that at Drybrook.

The game opened with a keen forward struggle, with the West End front division in the ascendancy. The home team attacked vigorously, and Wasley, picking up, made a short dash up the wing and cross-kicked for Wells to touch down. Adams goaled with a very good kick.

After this reverse the City Reserves got going, and Langston showed up well with a dashing run. Then in the course of another handling movement Hawker passed forward when there was an opening.

West End forwards, however, were determined to keep the game close, and playing a dashing game in the loose, prevented Gloucester A scoring.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

West End 1 goal
Gloucester A Nil

On the resumption West End continued the tactics which had been successful in the initial stages, and Gough made it difficult for Poole to open out. The home forwards rushed to the visitors' end with the ball at their feet, but James saved, and then Burns receiving from Poole, cut through and sent to Meadows, who in turn yielded to Langston for the wing man to score a pretty try. Burns failed to convert.

West End kept up their pressure, and a smart move by Gough, who worked round the blind side of the scrum, and Cole, the fly half, led to the latter scoring the home team's second try. This time Adams failed.

There was no further score.

RESULT :

West End 1 goal 1 try (8 points)
Gloucester A 1 try (3 points)