

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1922.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

PLYMOUTH'S FIRST DEFEAT.

WONDERFUL DROPPED GOAL BY COLLETT.

Plymouth Albion, with a record of six successive wins this season, were visitors to Kingsholm this afternoon, but the attendance was rather disappointing. Gloucester made two changes from the side which triumphed over the Harlequins on Saturday. Dix and Hall replacing Gough and Evans, and Plymouth brought their strongest side.

Teams : –

## GLOUCESTER.

BACK : J. C. Collett.

THREE-QUARTERS: S. R. Crowther, S. A. Brown, F. Meadows, and N. Daniell.

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

FORWARDS: G. Holford, Major Roderick, T. Voyce, J. Harris, S. Smart, A. Hall, S. Bayliss, and T. Coulson.

## PLYMOUTH ALBION.

BACK: H. S. Dyer.

THREE-QUARTERS: F. A. Wood, E. G. Butcher, F. P. Middleton, and H. Lyon.

HALF-BACKS: J. Fast and E. R. Uren.

FORWARDS: W. Wright, J. Boddy, Stanbury, J. Henley, R. Sparkes, S. R. Stephens, F. W. Saunders, and J. Clements.

Referee : Mr. Hale (Bristol).

## THE GAME.

The Plymouth colours being the same as the City, the home players wore white jerseys. The visitors kicked off against the sun, and the ball going to Holford, the latter started a bout of passing, but Meadows failed to take his transfer and the movement ended. There was another movement started by Roderick from the first line out, but Dix passed forward, and then Plymouth twice failed in attempting passing.

Fine play by Meadows gave Gloucester a good slice of ground, but Dix was penalised for an off-side tackle and Plymouth kicked out to Collett. The latter punted back hard and forced a minor. The drop out was charged down but the ball was captured by a visitor who ran and passed. Several exchanges followed, ending in Collett checking at the centre.

A fine run down the right wing by Daniell saw the latter yield to Voyce on reaching Dyer, but the International was collared from behind. Gloucester were in a good attacking position, and Fast being penalised for a scrum infringement Millington landed a neat goal.

Resuming, Gloucester showed up with a smart breakaway, Meadows coming through nicely and feeding Crowther. The right wing skirted down touch at a good pace and then cross-punted with his left. Voyce was up and had a fine opening, but the ball turned awkwardly on the line and he lost it. Butcher was handy and gathering pluckily punted out to touch.

Gloucester had the better of subsequent exchanges, the team playing well together and showing smart form. Good kicking gave the visitors relief and they found a footing in the home half. Dix brought about a change, and later opened cleverly to Millington after being partly held by Fast. The acting captain cut through, but his pass was taken by Wood, who raced away with only Collett in front of him. A timely punt sent the ball over the line and Wood following up touched down for a good try. The position was fairly easy, but the goal kick failed, and the teams were level pegging.

The City restarted in good style, and there was a clever move by the backs, in which Meadows shone. Millington, however, missed the ball, which dropped into the arms of Uren, who ran and punted hard. Brown, however, raced back and effected a good save. Daniell was conspicuous soon afterwards with a sharp dash, but was quickly brought down. The Albion backs got possession and heeled from the next two scrums, but the passing was too methodical and little ground was made. A kick over the line by Wood, however, forced a touch in goal.

Even play ensued for the next few minutes, and then Gloucester got a penalty. The kick was well followed up by Smart, who tackled Lyon in possession, but the visitor managed to pass to a confrere, who gained some twenty yards with a touch-finder. Both teams were inclined to play an open game, but the backs did not handle accurately, and play as a spectacle was not very inspiring.

A huge punt from a penalty by Collett found touch at the Albion 25, and soon after the City half-backs combined in a pretty movement. Harris also joined, and a score appeared imminent, but the ball was lost near the line. Voyce picked up and tried to force himself over, but he was held up. Butcher eased the pressure with a nice kick, but Collett, from another penalty, sent to touch inside the Plymouth quarter. An off-side tackle of Millington, which passed unnoticed by the referee, allowed the visitors to clear, and play was at the centre when half-time arrived.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal (p)  
PLYMOUTH ALBION ..... 1 try

The game had been keenly contested, and some good bits of play were witnessed at times, but as a whole the exhibition of football was of a moderate standard. Holford restarted, and soon Voyce was in evidence with a strong dash from a line-out, which took Gloucester well down. The City worked desperately to effect a crossing, but the defence was equally strenuous. Dix twice tried to rush over, but was held up, and Millington once looked a likely scorer, but he passed, and the ball was knocked on.

At length the ball came out on the Albion side of the scrum, and Uren picking up ran round behind the posts and kicked to Collett who received the ball some 40 yards outside. Taking deliberate aim with a shot for goal, though the position was a difficult one, Collett with a wonderful kick successfully covered the cross-bar, amidst tremendous enthusiasm, players and spectators joining in the demonstration.

Albion got well up on the restart, and for a few minutes penned the City in their quarter, but the ball coming to Brown, the centre found touch with a nice kick. From the line out Voyce, Roderick, and Smart made headway, and Gloucester took up the game again. A long kick changed the venue, though Crowther ran back, and, clearing Butcher, got in a nice kick. Immediately after a Plymouth forward broke away, but Collett proved a stumbling block and effected a smothering tackle.

By dashing forward work Plymouth gained a footing in the home end where hostilities were hotly waged. Coulson and Roderick, with some clever footwork, brought the game out, and then Dix with a reverse pass set Millington going. The latter passed to Brown, who punted high up the centre, but the ball went to Dyer, who returned nicely to touch.

The game was of a ding-dong character, there being little in it. The forwards chiefly fought out the issue, and the tussle here was vigorous and keen. Gradually the Albion gained the upper hand, and a series of scrums and lines out ensued in close proximity to the home line.

From a scrum right in front of the posts Fast got the ball away to Uren, who threw out wide to Wood on the right. The latter took the ball and dashed over, but the whistle had gone for a forward pass. Gloucester had another escape a minute later, Albion just missing a corner try. The situation was relieved by Dyer kicking over the line and Gloucester conceding a minor.

Plymouth continued to have the better of the game, and the City were kept busily defending. From a penalty Butcher had a shot for goal, which only just missed. This was the visitors' last chance of a score, and the end came soon afterwards.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ..... 2 goals (1p, 1d) (7 pts.)  
PLYMOUTH ..... 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

A desperately keen contest – too keen to allow of the finer points of the game to be exploited with success. The forwards were well matched, both packs in turn assuming the advantage. In the last ten minutes Plymouth especially asserted themselves, but they could not pierce the stubborn defence.

Collett's marvellous dropped goal decided the issue, and the City full-back all round played a splendid game. His kicking was as big as ever and there was more judgment in direction, especially with several penalty kicks.

The backs on both sides did smart work occasionally, but numerous mistakes in handling spoiled a lot of promising work.

W.B.

JC