

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1923.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER *v.* CINDERFORD.

Cinderford provided the opposition for Gloucester at Kingsholm this afternoon. The weather was glorious and the ground in perfect condition.

There was a very good attendance, a large contingent of Forest of Dean enthusiasts making the journey.

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : J. C. Collett.

THREE-QUARTER BACKS : N. Daniell, S. Stone, S. A. Brown, and J. W. Gibbs.

HALF-BACKS : E. H. Hughes and T. Millington.

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe (capt.), T. Voyce, G. Holford, A. Hall, S. Smart, S. Bayliss, T. Coulson, and A. Rea.

CINDERFORD.

BACK : G. Greenman.

THREE-QUARTER BACKS : W. Johnson, M. Penn, T. Young, and P. Gabb.

HALF-BACKS : R. Milliner and M. Meek.

FORWARDS : F. Coombs (capt.), S. Madley, S. Duberley, J. Merry, S. Weaver, W. Phelps, F. Carpenter, and T. Coombs.

Referee : Mr. J. Southby (Bristol).

THE GAME.

Cinderford kicked off against the sun, and the ball went to Holford, who started a round of passing in which the Gloucester three-quarters participated, Gibbs passing inside to Brown, who knocked on. From the scrum Cinderford obtained, and indulging in passing, ran to the home quarter, where they were pulled up, and Gloucester were awarded a penalty. Collett put in a wonderful kick to touch far up the field, and Millington initiated another back movement. Although Voyce backed up Brown and took a nice pass, Daniell, to whom he transferred, was too closely marked.

Cinderford gained some ground with a free kick and again invaded the home territory. They were penalised for off-side, but the kick was charged down. The game was being very keenly contested, and Cinderford worked to the home quarter, where Millington put in a useful relief kick. Cinderford came again, and there was a dangerous loose rush for the line, which Collett only just managed to stop.

Stone made a mark and relieved the pressure with a kick to half-way, and Brown giving a short line-out to Millington, the outside half raced away to the 25 where, being faced by Greenman, he passed to Gibbs. The wing man, who had got inside, had a clear run in, but he stumbled and knocked on, losing a certain try.

Gloucester continued to attack, and Stone in the course of a passing movement had a fine chance, which he muffed through fumbling. Then Gibbs made a dash for the line, but he was tackled and his pass was intercepted.

Another fine kick to touch by Collett put Gloucester into the Cinderford quarter, but the ball was kicked down to Collett, who failed to pick up cleanly. Cinderford ran to the home end, but from a line-out the Gloucester threes handled beautifully, and Brown gave the dummy beautifully to Greenman and scored beneath the posts. Millington goaled.

After another moderate attack by Cinderford the home backs set up another fine movement, the ball passing along to Gibbs, who transferred inside to Voyce, who had a clear run in, and scored a further try, which Millington had no difficulty in improving upon.

The Foresters now seemed to have gone to pieces; they were taking the dummy badly, and the keenness had gone out of their tackling. In the course of a forward rush Ayliffe picked up, gave the dummy, and running well threw out a wide pass, which Brown retrieved. Brown dodged inside past a couple of defenders and registered Gloucester's third try. Again Millington goaled.

Gloucester were now having things all their own way, and dashes for the Cinderford line were frequent. Stone showed up in a sharp dash, but held on too long, and then Voyce made for the line, but was held up by Greenman. Feet up in the scrum led to Gloucester being penalised, but the Foresters gained little ground, and from a scrum Hughes fed his backs, Brown, Stone, and Daniell handling beautifully, the wing man putting in one of the best runs seen on the ground this season, avoiding two of the Cinderford backs and jumping over Greenman before grounding behind the posts. Millington converted, making Gloucester's score 20 points.

Feet up again gave Cinderford a penalty, but one of their men got in front of the ball. They managed to relieve the pressure.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER	4 tries
CINDERFORD	Nil

Gabb, who was injured during the first half but had played on, again turned out on the resumption, but Meek, who was also injured, did not return, Young taking his place at inside half and Weaver going back.

Cinderford pressed to the home half immediately on the resumption, and the ball was kicked down to Collett, who ran it out but only sent to touch inside his own quarter.

The Foresters continued to press, and in the course of a melee right on the line Coombes fell over with a good try. The position was not good enough for Milliner to convert.

Gloucester then came away and worked to mid-field, where Milliner was penalised for off-side. The struggle continued keen at mid-field, Hughes and Milliner engaging in a vigorous tussle at the base of the scrum. At last the Gloucester forwards heeled and Millington sent Daniell away. The wing man passed inside to Millington, but the pass was ragged and Millington knocked on with the line at his mercy. The players had been over keen and inclined to scrap, and Mr. Southby had to give them a little friendly advice. The visitors then put in a useful handling movement, Johnson and Penn running well until the wing man was thrown to touch.

Gloucester again took up the attack and rushed to the Cinderford quarter, where Hughes got off-side, and the Foresters kicked down to Collett. The home back put in a fine kick, keeping the City well down. Stone was badly fouled and injured, and had to be carried from the field. A line-out from the corner led to a scramble on the line, Bayliss scoring a try, which Millington did not convert.

By rushing tactics and good use of the touch line Cinderford worked to the Gloucester quarter, where a keen but scrambling struggle ensued. Cinderford made gallant efforts to reduce the lead, and the Gloucester line was several times in danger, until Stone picked up and sent to touch outside the 25. But the Foresters still kept busy and from a scrum near the line Milliner passed to T. Young, who cut in nicely and scored. The kick failed.

Then there was an unfortunate accident in which Millington and another player were involved, and the next moment there was a general scrap which looked like creating trouble, but the referee and one or two officials intervened, and the end came a moment later.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 4 goals 1 try (23 pts.)
CINDERFORD 2 tries (6 pts.)

COMMENTS.

The unfortunate scrap just before the end was the result of several threatening movements made by Young early on. When at last he really set on Millington, Ayliffe and Voyce went to the stand-off half's assistance, and other visiting players joining in there was quite a tussle. After the teams had retired there was a scrap amongst the supporters.

Such tactics on the part of Cinderford were much to be deplored, for the Foresters have quite a good side and could afford to play the game. For a time in both halves of the game they played up well and but for the superiority of the home backs might have got off with a smaller margin against them.

Their forwards played a bustling game and did quite well on the whole. There was no doubt that Gloucester had the measure of the Cinderford team in all departments. The forwards played splendidly and Hughes and Millington opened up well, enabling the backs, amongst whom Brown was the most prominent, to execute some fine movements. The best individual effort was that of Daniell, whose try was a real beauty. Collett again played a sound game.

Next week : Cardiff, at Kingsholm.