

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1912

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD.

MATCH ABANDONED.

The severe frost of Friday night, which is still continuing, affected the ground, but the Cinderford officials had hopes that the sun on Saturday morning would soften the surface sufficiently to make play possible. It did not, however, make much alteration. Players and officials of both clubs made a thorough examination of the playing pitch, and opinion was divided, but the majority were against playing, the referee leaving it entirely to them. A large crowd was waiting to enter the ground, and this was a great misfortune for Cinderford.

GLOUCESTER A v. ST. MARK'S.

SIX POINTS' WIN FOR THE SAINTS.

These old and keen rivals met at Kingsholm on Saturday in cold, frosty weather, before a small attendance. The teams were : —

Gloucester A. — F. W. Hayward; F. Webb, E. Bowen, W. Sysum, and R. Ellis; G. D. Bottomley and C. Mumford; H. Berry, J. Harris, W. Rudman, H. Kingscott, J. H. Webb, F. Yates, W. Parham, and Osborne.

St. Mark's. — P. Speck; T. Powell, H. Barnes, H. Cook, Bert Barnes; J. Hamblin, J. Humphries; E. Merchant (capt.), C. L. Donald, F. Westbury, R. Thompson, G. Lane, T. Hopton, H. Draper, C. Johnston.

The ground was pretty hard, and the boots "rattled" a bit when St. Mark's started with the sun in their eyes. Bowen was early conspicuous with a clever burst through, and he tackled Speck well but Bert Barnes was able to clear.

Gloucester were penalised, and St. Mark's reached the home quarter, but Bottomley gained a nice slice of ground with a neat punt, and Gloucester were quickly in an attacking position. The Saints' forwards cleared, however, with a good rush, and the centre was the venue.

A free to Gloucester was taken by Hayward, who missed the goal only by a yard at long range. Speck knocked on, and a scrum was formed right on St. Mark's line, but the Saints cleared.

A fine rush by the Gloucester forwards resulted in a "carry-over," and Gloucester attacked hotly. Bowen picked up from the St. Mark's forwards' feet and passed to Webb, who, however, lost the ball as he crossed the line in the corner.

Gloucester maintained their attack, but Griffiths receiving in the line out punted out right clear to the centre. The Gloucester forwards, with Berry in the van, rushed well, but in the loose play there was very little between the rival eights.

Eventually Kingscott dribbled right away and took the ball over the line, but the referee adjudged it was a touch-down – a very near thing.

Gloucester immediately after forced another minor. Hayward put in a lovely return to the drop out, and the Citizens were once more in a favourable position. St. Mark's cleared with a good rush, and by using the touch line. The play was scrappy, but what there was of it was in favour of Gloucester.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A Nil
St. Mark's Nil

The opening stages of the second half went in favour of the visitors, whose forwards relied on the kick and rush game with advantage. Eventually, however, Webb punted up and Gloucester reached their opponents' 25, but the visitors quickly cleared.

Playing up strongly in the loose the St. Mark's forwards gained a lot of ground, and Ellis badly fumbling the ball from a punt over the line, Powell dashed up and scored a try, which H. Barnes failed to convert.

St. Mark's went away strongly again after the drop-out and quickly had the Seconds on the defensive again, forcing a minor in the corner. The Seconds' centred play after this, but the game was very scrappy and the Saints were just a little too good in the front for the homesters.

It was practically entirely a forward game, there being very little outside work of any sort. The Saints got possession nine times out of ten in the scrums and in the line-out, and gradually forced the Seconds back on to their own line, where in a strong burst Hopton went over with a try.

St. Mark's continued to have the best of matters and were quickly attacking again. A free brought some relief, but the Saints' forwards came away again and Jimmy Hamblin was once very nearly through. St. Mark's had the better of the exchanges to the end, but could not score again.

RESULT :

St. Mark's 2 tries (6 points)
Gloucester A Nil

REMARKS.

The St. Mark's men were fully entitled to their win on the day's play, the rushing, bustling tactics adopted by the forwards quite putting the Seconds off. The home outsiders did not get any chance at all, for although Bottomley worked very hard Mumford's passes were too high and too slow, and gave his partner no chance to open out before the St. Mark's forwards were on him.

The veteran Westbury, Hopton and Thompson played well in front for the Saints, while Jimmy Hamblin cut through well at times, and Powell, on the wing, was distinctly useful, showing promise of a good player in time.

On the Gloucester side there is very little need to comment except to say that in Kingscote they have unearthed a useful stamp of a hard-working forward.

JC