

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1913

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. LEICESTER.

SPLENDID WIN FOR THE CITY TEAM.

THE "TIGERS" OUTPLAYED.

HOME TEAM'S GROUND RECORD LOST.

GLOUCESTER FORWARDS' FINE FORM.

The City team have accomplished some excellent performances at Leicester, and last season they gained a splendid victory over the "Tigers" by 7 points to nil. For to-day's game Gloucester were again weak, for Hudson, Washbourne, and Hayes were on the injured list, Stuart was at Twickenham doing duty for England, and Johns could not get away owing to pressure of business.

E. Nash of the 1st Gloucester Regiment, who is home on furlough till the end of the month, was given a further trial in the pack. He is a big fellow, with the useful weight of 13st. 7lbs., and has done splendid work for the Regiment.

Leicester, who were playing Hargrave, and Greasley forward, the first-named being at Twickenham as first reserve for England.[sic] S. Farmer, the schoolboy International, took the place of Hargrave on the right wing. Hunter (three-quarter) was on the injured list.

Leicester had an unbeaten record at home, and the only Saturday engagement lost so far this season was at Swansea.

The following were the teams :—

GLOUCESTER.	POSITIONS.	LEICESTER.
C. Cook	Backs.	J. W. Bream
E. Bowen	Three-Quarter	P. W. Lawrie (capt.)
A. Lewis	Backs	F. N. Tarr
L. Hamblin	"	J. R. Watson
F. Webb	"	S. Farmer
W. Dix	Half-Backs	G. W. Wood
W. Wilkes	"	F. M. Taylor
G. Halford (capt.)	Forwards	H. S. B. Lawrie
G. Vears	"	W. J. Allen
J. Meadows	"	T. Hogarth
A. Saunders	"	G. Hopkins
W. Dovey	"	W. Dalby
S. Millard	"	F. Taylor
E. Nash	"	L. S. Burton
A. Cook	"	D. Waddell

THE GAME.

Worse conditions could not possibly have obtained. Heavy rain fell during the morning, but just before the kick off the downpour was very heavy, and the ground was little better than a quagmire.

The opening play went in Leicester's favour, a strong burst by the forwards carrying operations well inside the visitors' 25. Nash temporarily relieved, and shortly after Hamblin gained further ground. Gloucester were shortly afterwards penalised for holding the ball, and Bream kicked a fine goal.

Following this reverse Gloucester attacked strongly, the forwards doing finely in the loose. Bowen improved their position with a timely kick to touch, and Leicester were called upon to defend stoutly. This they did successfully, and Taylor led an attack on Gloucester's lines, but immediately Millard, Wilkes, and Hamblin retaliated with a fine open movement, which was only robbed of success by the last pass being a little forward.

Gloucester were now playing by far the better football, and a strong run by Hamblin, followed by a forward burst, forced Leicester to touch down. Gloucester maintained the pressure, and Lewis dropped a goal, the ball striking the upright and rebounding over the bar.

Gloucester continued to monopolise the play. A fine round of passing by their backs nearly brought further success. A loose rush, followed by a good effort by Wilkes, gave Gloucester a strong lead, which was deserved. Though the try was not converted Gloucester had now established a lead of four points, which they maintained to the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 1 goal (d) 1 try
Leicester 1 goal (p)

Early in the second half Leicester showed up to better advantage. Their forwards became more effective in the loose and their backs combined with better effect.

Lawrie just missed dropping a goal, and afterwards Gloucester were subjected to a severe and well sustained attack. The defence prevailed, and Cook drove his opponents back to mid-field with a fine kick. Gloucester next attacked, and Hamblin went on and touched down for another try, which Cook failed to convert.

Gloucester again became aggressive through the good work of the forwards, who were easily superior to Leicester's pack, and a fine burst, headed by Halford, only narrowly missed further points.

Leicester eventually got out of difficulties, but Gloucester had now apparently got the game well in hand. Leicester again attacked, carrying play to their opponents' goal, and Allen scored a try, which Bream converted. Leicester had thus cut down the lead to a couple of points.

Encouraged by their success the home side now played hard for the winning points, but again encountered a very sound defence, in which Dix and Cook were very prominent. A good forward burst compelled Cook to touch down. The relief was welcome, for Gloucester at once transferred the venue to mid-field. There Dix was penalised for picking out of the scrum, but Lewis neutralised the advantage gained and play again settled down in the open.

Getting on the run Leicester again forced matters, though shortly afterwards Gloucester narrowly missed further points from a forward burst. Leicester again attacked strongly, but their backs could not get through, and in the closing minute Gloucester attacked and Nash scored, no goal resulting.

RESULT :

Gloucester 13 points
Leicester 8 points

REMARKS.

Gloucester thoroughly deserved their victory. They were better than Leicester in all departments, and their combination was excellent, but the feature was the forward work, which was admirable. Halford, Nash, and Millard were superb. Behind, Dix, Lewis, and Cook were very sound, and the passing at times was excellent.

Leicester were a little stale, and were not well together. The score does not exaggerate Gloucester's superiority.

GLOUCESTER A v. TREDWORTH.

This match, arranged for decision at Kingsholm, had to be abandoned owing to the state of the ground.