

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1913

FOOTBALL.

RUGBY.

GLOUCESTER v. DEVON ALBION.

SUPRISE DEFEAT FOR THE CITY.

ALBION'S STARTLING FINISH.

(By W.B.)

Though there was no fog, the weather was dull and cold, and rain setting in at 2 o'clock, the conditions were very unpleasant for the return match between the City and Devon Albion at Kingsholm.

The visitors, owing to the suspensions by the Rugby Union, had a somewhat strange side doing duty, only five of the team which beat Gloucester by 17 points to nil at Devonport last October being included.

The City had Washbourn away owing to a cold, otherwise the Club was at full strength.

The Albion, even at their best, have never proved a big draw at Gloucester, and with weakened ranks and bad weather only a moderate attendance was present when the teams lined out.

The visitors made one change, W. Spears, the old Gloucester forward, who retired three or four seasons ago, taking the place of C. Marshall, who was unable to make the journey.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER.	POSITIONS.	DEVON ALBION.
C. Cook	Backs.	R. Hocking
A. Hudson (capt.)	Three-Quarter	H. Collicott
A. Lewis	Backs	W. Lyle
L. Hamblin	"	W. L. Ferrier
E. Bowen	"	S. G. Harvey
W. Dix	Half-Backs	F. Rule
W. Wilkes	"	H. Morey
G. Halford	Forwards	W. Spiers
S. Smart	"	J. Wright
W. Johns	"	H. Hocking
N. Hayes	"	G. Lewis
G. Vears	"	W. Campbell
S. Millard	"	J. Boddy
A. Saunders	"	E. H. Gatzias
W. Dovey	"	J. Sambells

Referee : Mr. P. J. Parkes (Midland Counties).

#### THE GAME.

Spiers kicked off for the Albion, and Halford knocking on, the first scrum was formed in the home half. The City heeled from the first two scrimmages, and from the second Dix and Wilkes opened out well, but Lewis failed to take and the movement was checked.

Working well, the Gloucester forwards soon made an impression, Halford, Johns, and Hayes shining. The ball was taken over the line, but the final kick was too hard and a touchdown resulted.

Following the drop-out the visitors reached the centre, where Lewis shone in some smart play. A flying kick, however, sent the game back to mid-field. Here Dovey broke away beautifully from a line-out, but was collared from behind. Gloucester confined play to the Albion half, where Hudson tried a couple of cross-kicks, but nothing resulted.

A visitor fumbling, Vears picked up and passed, and Dix running across fed Halford. The latter feinted to pass, but an opponent pulled him down from behind. The City worked very close, and the Albion being penalised for an infringement Cook kicked a fine goal, the ball hitting the cross-bar and bouncing over.

The Albion restarted, and there was some even play near the centre mark. Then came a bout of passing started by Cook. It was rather slow, but Bowen, the last to receive, made a good dash. He was collared and threw inside, but the ball went astray and a visitor kicked down the field, Wilkes saving.

Good back play by the Devonians caused Gloucester trouble, but the situation was saved. Taking advantage of a loose pass by Lyle, Lewis gathered and punted hard. Hocking, however, gathered and returned to Hamblin, who got in a clever cross-kick and put his men on-side. Saunders received, but with a grand opening he passed forward.

Ensuing play favoured Gloucester, but the tackling was sound. Johns was applauded for a strong effort down touch, and then followed some scrambling play in which mistakes in fielding were frequent. Gradually the Albion reached more favourable quarters, but the play was lacking in incident.

Fine kicks by Cook put Gloucester down again, and from another high punt by Hamblin the City got very close. From a short throw out Smart tried to dash over, but he was held up, and then Dix was similarly stopped. A penalty against Gloucester enabled the Albion to clear, and a forward gathering from a loose transfer by a Gloucester man, he raced clear. His pass, however, was adjudged forward, though it was a very fine point.

Next the City backs handled, and Wilkes and Lewis put in sharp dashes, only to find their efforts baulked. Even play followed for a spell until Dix got the ball away, and the forwards dribbled well.

Hocking gathered and punted to Bowen, who fielded well and made a fine effort to cross, but succumbed to numbers. Another passing move promised well, Lewis cutting through finely, but he overdid it and was collared, with Hudson waiting on his right. Gloucester lost their position through faulty play, though it was quickly recovered by Lewis and Hudson. Gloucester were still getting the ball back, and Dix and Wilkes opened out nicely, but the defence proved too strong.

The Albion forwards, with close dribbling, took the ball down to Cook, who ran round and fed Hamblin. The latter, however, slipped and fell in trying to cut inside, and lost the ball. The forwards, however, were up and swept away, Hocking checking near the line. The visitors worked out of danger, but Gloucester got back and attacked strongly. From a scrum ten yards out Dix initiated a passing bout, and the ball going through the hands of Wilkes, Bowen, Hamblin, Lewis, and Hudson in turn, the Captain crossed in the corner. Cook failed at goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... 1 goal (p) 1 try  
Devon Albion ..... Nil

Halford restarted, and from the return Hamblin replied with a nice touch finder. From a scrum Dix opened out, and the ball came across to Hudson, who dashed through, only to fall a victim to Ferrier's tackle. Off-side by Gloucester gave the visitors a penalty, but Cook returned with interest. Then some clever dribbling by Dovey gained a good slice of ground, and the Albion were placed on the defensive. Dix again got the ball away cleverly, but the marking was very close, though Bowen made a good attempt to clear the opposition.

Gloucester tried another attack on the right with no result, and the Albion cleared by the aid of a big kick. Centre play followed, but a couple of fouls by Albion men on Dix and Wilkes went unnoticed by the referee. The visitors gained a few yards with a loose rush, only to be quickly sent back. A clever reverse pass by Dix set his threes going, and Hudson had a big dash, but was well collared by Harvey.

Wilkes next showed up with a wonderful bit of dribbling, beating two or three men in fine style. He finally centred the ball, and Johns picking up threw to Bowen, who fell to a terrific tackle. Bowen's opponent was laid out in the collision, but was able to continue after a brief delay.

Albion cleared from a dangerous position by wheeling a scrum, but Hudson and Lewis returned with well-judged kicks. For off-side by Rule the Devonians were penalised, and Cook had a place for goal, but miskicked and the ball rolled over the line for a minor.

Gloucester were outplaying their opponents all round, and the game was strictly confined to the visitors' half. Carrying a scrum, the City rushed right to the line, where Albion luckily saved. Another minor followed shortly afterwards from a punt over the line by Lewis.

The drop-out brought Albion relief, but another telling rush by the City forwards was not stopped until right under the Albion posts. Here Johns picked up in the loose and threw the ball out, but it went wide, and Bowen could do nothing but kick. Albion worked out by the aid of short kicks, and the centre was the scene of operations.

Dix getting the ball away, Lewis failed to take from Wilkes. The latter tried to recover, but missed, and Morey, picking up, sent a quick pass – it looked a yard forward – to Collicott, who, striding well, went clean through and behind the posts with a good try. Harvey landed a goal, and only one point separated the teams.

Gloucester restarted, and there was some hot forward work witnessed. Vears was laid out in a scramble and winded, but after attention he was soon at work again. Both sides were playing strenuous football, the Albion especially working desperately for the lead. A movement started from the scrum saw Collicott make a bold bid for the corner, but he was stopped in time. Putting on the pressure, Albion were all over their opponents now, and Gloucester twice narrowly escaped.

Hosking kept the home team on the defence with some clever work, and several scrums followed in close proximity to the Gloucester goal. From one of these Morey received, and after tricking an opponent sent out a wide pass to Lyle, who dashed over with a try. The place kick failed, but Albion had gained a two points' lead.

Albion held their advantage to the end.

RESULT :

Albion ..... 1 goal 1 try (8 points)  
Gloucester ..... 1 goal (p) 1 try (6 points)

REMARKS.

The result came as a big surprise and disappointment, but one was bound to admire the Albion for their rousing football at the end. For more than three parts of the game Gloucester were easily on top, and it was only on rare occasions play was out of the Albion half. With a six points' lead at the interval the City seemed safe enough, but the result furnished another instance of the glorious uncertainty of the game.

Gloucester finished rather tamely, and there was a complete change in the fortunes of the game in the last ten minutes. Of that first try credited to the visitors, opinion was distinctly in favour of a forward pass from Morey to Collicott, and it was from this point the City unaccountably fell away.

The Gloucester forwards played a rare game, and the absence of success could not be laid on them. The City proved superior in the scrums, and their work in the loose was superb at times. How the Albion escaped from the repeated onslaughts in the second half was marvellous. Individually Halford, Smart, Dovey, and Johns were ever conspicuous.

Albion were very effective with their close dribbling, and ably led by the veteran Spiers, whose experience proved invaluable, they broke up quickly and rendered splendid service in tackling.

There was some smart work at half-back, and Dix and Wilkes well held their own against Rule and Morey. The Gloucestersians opened out well, and no complaint could be made of their service. So close, however, was the marking of the visitors that few real openings accrued. Lewis broke through cleverly several times, and was often dangerous, but he could not quite do the trick. Hamblin played very soundly, and kicked with great judgment, but was unlucky in slipping on the greasy surface when going strongly in attack.

On the wings, Bowen did all that was required of him, and Hudson was very prominent at times. The whole line, however, did not prove the effective force they were against Leicester.

Albion never gave up hope, and their persistent efforts were well rewarded. The backs did not get a great deal to do until the closing stages, but the men showed real smartness with the two chances that came their way.

The full-back play was excellent. Hosking had ever so much more to do than Cook, but he never failed, and proved a worthy successor to Lillicrap.

Scorers for Gloucester : Hudson, try; C. Cook, penalty goal.

Next week : Northampton, away.

## GLOUCESTER A v. WHITECROFT.

### CITY SECONDS WIN.

For this return match, at Whitecroft, the homesters were well represented. There was a good crowd present, when the teams fielded. Gloucester won the toss, and elected to face the gradient. Baker kicked off for Whitecroft, but a feeble return was made. Griffin, cross-kicking, cleverly put Whitecroft on the attack, but Hayward cleared in fine style, and play was taken to the other end of the field.

Gloucester's stay, however, was very brief, for Berry headed a great rush by the home forwards, which was only just checked in time. Off-side play by the home inside half, however, gave the visitors a chance to clear, which they did in fine style. In the next minute, Vedmore made a fruitless attempt to drop a goal, and the visitors returned to the attack through some good play by Webb. Hard, gruelling forward play followed for some time, and then the home threes tried a passing movement, which only just failed to score. Gloucester, however, were attacking when half-time arrived.

Re-starting, the first incident of note was a great burst by Morgan, of the home threes, when matters were looking dangerous for his side. Sticking to their opponents, Whitecroft forced them to concede a minor. From the next scrum formed, the visitors made great headway, and Hayward essayed a drop at goal, which went outside by inches only.

The visitors, keeping play confined to home territory, looked bound to score, but again a daring save by Morgan staved off disaster. Whitecroft being penalised for lying on the ball gave the visitors a chance to open their score, but Ruck's attempt at goal fell short.

Keeping up the pressure Cook, securing, kicked across the field, and Webb easily outwitted the defence, scoring a try in a favourable position. Hayward goaled.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 1 goal (5 points)  
Whitecroft ..... Nil