

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1913

FOOTBALL.

RUGBY.

GLOUCESTER v. NORTHAMPTON.

THE CITY DEFEATED.

BAD LUCK AND LOST CHANCES.

(By W.B.)

With Hudson injured, C. Cook indisposed, and Johns unable to get away from business, Gloucester had to call on the reserves again to-day for the return match with Northampton.

Like the City, the East Midlanders have been doing none too well of late, and in the last three matches at home they were on the losing side – to Llanelly, Swansea, and the United Services respectively.

The team was strengthened for the match with Gloucester by the inclusion of E. C. Lindow, the Kent County centre, and new players figured at half-back and full back.

Mobbs, suffering from rheumatism, was absent, J. R. Watson, the old Leicester player, filling the vacancy.

Hayward, Brown, and A. Cook filled the vacancies in the Gloucester team.

GLOUCESTER.	POSITIONS.	NORTHAMPTON.
F. W. Hayward	Backs.	F. C. Mawby
W. Washbourne	Three-Quarter	W. Bradshaw
A. Lewis	Backs	J. R. Watson
L. Hamblin	"	E. C. Lindow
E. Bowen	"	E. C. Cook
W. Dix	Half-Backs	T. H. Hunter
W. Wilkes	"	A. Earl
G. Halford	Forwards	A. G. Bull
S. Smart	"	F. Muddiman
A. Cook	"	C. P. Tebbitt
G. Vears	"	H. Pettit
N. Hayes	"	E. W. White
S. Millard	"	T. Collins
A. Saunders	"	T. Collier
W. Dovey	"	H. Griffin

Referee : Mr. Lyster (Midlands).

THE GAME.

The weather was dull, but the ground was in good condition. Northampton kicked off, and from the first scrum Earl dribbled through and Lewis failing to gather, the ball was sent across to near the City line, where Washbourne was forced to kick out of play. A scrum followed five yards outside, and Dix intercepting he fed Washbourne cleverly, but the latter's pass was forward.

Midfield play followed, ending in Lindow dropping for goal, but the ball went wide. On the drop-out Gloucester showed up well, but Northampton returned strongly, and White put his side well down with a cross-kick. Lewis saved but in a subsequent scramble Cook scored in a good position, and Muddiman converted. It was a somewhat lucky score, and Gloucester were caught napping.

The game was resumed with great keenness, the City forwards playing up strongly. Dix twice served Washbourne on the blind side of the scrum and the wing man cross-kicked, but the situation was saved.

Kicking by the home backs changed the venue, and then Earl was damaged and had to go off. Gloucester continued with good work, but the forwards lost a splendid chance by over-running the ball.

Northampton took full advantage and rushed to the other end. Gloucester quickly came back and attacked strongly. Hamblin cut through and threw out a wide pass to Lewis, who fed Bowen, but the latter missed a certain try by failing to take the ball. Gloucester still attacked, and from a penalty Hamblin only just failed to land a goal.

Dix and Wilkes opened out nicely from several scrums, but the passing failed, and subsequent mistakes in handling lost a lot of ground. Some hot forward work ensued near the City line, and from a cross punt by Cook, Lindow secured and, the ball getting across to Bradshaw, the latter scored in the corner. The place-kick failed.

Gloucester improved on the restart, and after some neat handling Hamblin punted ahead for Bowen to dash up splendidly and score wide out. Hamblin missed the goal points.

Ensuing play was very hot, but the City were somewhat erratic in the open. Still, the visitors were holding their own well and playing with great vigour. Clever work by Dix gave the City a good position on the left, but Mawby returned well.

Long kicking tested Hayward later, but the Gloucester custodian fielded with splendid accuracy, and his kicks to touch were of good length and well judged. Play was at the centre at the interval.

HALF- TIME SCORE :
Northampton 1 goal, 1 try
Gloucester 1 try

On the play Gloucester did not deserve to be five points down, but the visitors had not made the best use of their opportunities. Northampton were still short of Earl when Halford restarted. The Gloucester forwards heeled well from the opening scrums, but the backs failed to make much headway.

Northampton did much better with a couple of chances they had, the Gloucester quarter being visited before the movements were checked. Halford and Hayes led a grand rush back to past the centre, and later Hamblin gained twenty yards with a penalty kick. This ground was immediately recovered by Cook, and then followed some desperate forward work, but with little cleverness displayed.

At length Gloucester opened out with a brilliant movement, all the backs handling, but Hamblin's final pass went wide of Bowen. For the next three minutes the City attacked vigorously, and Dix and a forward only just missed scoring. A penalty brought relief to Northampton, but the visitors rushed back. Halford broke clean away from a line-out and a score seemed certain, but it was thrown away badly.

So far Northampton had scarcely been out of their half, and with the chances they had Gloucester ought easily to have been leading at this stage. Useful kicking enabled the Saints to ease the pressure, but a capital effort by Hayward put Gloucester on the attack again. From some loose work the ball was kicked towards the home goal, and Washbourne racing up gathered the ball and sprinted over with a smart try. Hamblin failed at goal, and Gloucester were still two points behind.

Immediately on the restart Dix picked up from the scrum and dropped for goal, but the ball went wide of the uprights.

Northampton gained slight relief on the drop-out, but Gloucester soon returned and the home lines underwent severe pressure. The City forwards worked desperately to break through, but the defence held out marvellously. Gloucester lost their position through faulty passing, and though Halford recovered, more mistakes in handling let the side down.

From a dribble through by Lindow the home team got dangerous, but the Gloucester forwards relieved with a great dribble which Cook checked with a clever kick. The City advanced again, and in a terrific attack Hayes crossed, but a scrum five yards out was given.

Gloucester struggled hard to snatch victory in the last few minutes, but their efforts were unrewarded.

RESULT :

Northampton 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)

Gloucester 2 tries (6 points)

REMARKS.

Gloucester were very unlucky in losing, though in a large measure they contributed to their own defeat by mulling chances of scoring which ought easily to have been accepted.

All the second half Northampton were clean out of it, and were strictly confined to defence. The tackling was very sound, but the heartbreaking thing from the City standpoint was that tries were missed through faulty handling when the opposition was clearly beaten.

The Gloucester forwards played desperately against an equally keen set, and practically had it all their own way in the scrums.

Halford played a particularly fine game, and Dovey, Cook, Smart, and Hayes were splendid.

The three-quarters' work was inconsistent, and a lot of mistakes were made. Dix was quite up to form, and Wilkes did well. Hayward proved safe, and kicked well.

GLOUCESTER A v. BREAM.

CAPITAL WIN FOR THE SECONDS.

These keen rivals faced each other at Kingsholm after the Boys' match on Saturday before a good crowd. Gloucester had three changes in the team, Cook, Bowen, and Hayward being away, while Bream fielded a full side.

The teams were : –

Gloucester A. – E. Ruck; T. Powell, W. Sysum, F. Bloxsome, and F. Webb; J. Humphries and C. Cummings; F. Pegler, J. Harris, C. Mumford, F. Yates, Lewis, W. Parham, E. G. Bryant, and Osborne.

Bream. – F. Vedmore; J. Price (captain), J. Griffin, T. Stone, and J. Kent; L. Morse and A. Jenkins; A. Adams, P. Gilbert, G. Hughes, H. James, J. Nelmes, F. Moore, W. Edwards, and G. Jenkins.

Referee : J. Such, Cheltenham.

Gloucester started off well and immediately hemmed the Foresters in their own 25. Two scrums followed in quick succession, and from the second of these a wide pass by Cummings set Bloxsome in motion. The captain cut his man neatly and passed to Powell who went full speed over the line with a good try. Ruck only just failed at long range.

Gloucester continued to maintain a marked advantage, and quickly forced two minors. Bloxsome and Webb were prominent with good kicks, but a safe field and return by Price sent the ball over the line and Gloucester touched down. Gloucester quickly returned to the attack, and from a kick on the line a rare race for the touch resulted, but Vedmore just did the trick.

Off-side by Bream lost them a lot of ground, but a good forward rush took the visitors beyond the centre. Ruck, however, found touch well. The next minute, however, he fumbled, and Bream were nearly over in the corner, touch-in-goal resulting.

From the drop-out Gloucester went right away. A mistake in handling, however, spoilt a possible chance, and fumbling at the base of the scrum enabled Bream to reach the home territory. An exchange of kicks, however, resulted in Ruck's favour.

The Foresters' forwards put in some telling work, and once more reached a good attacking position. Morse cut away from the scrum nicely, but he was well collared, and Gloucester cleared what looked like a dangerous situation. Bream quickly returned to the attack, but a long kick ended in the ball going over the dead ball line.

Play in neutral territory followed, and then Gloucester opened out, Cummings, Bloxsome, and Powell being prominent, but the last pass was too close to the touch line. Jack Kent went off well for Bream, but although he made a lot of ground he could not shake off Ruck, and the movement was checked.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A	1 try
Bream	Nil

On resuming play fluctuated at the centre for some time, but after about five minutes of even play there came a lovely bit of short line work which left Bream entirely guessing and gave Gloucester a good try. Cummings gave a short throw-out to Parham, who re-transferred at once to Cummings. Then the ball went to Webb, who raced right away from the opposition and sailed over the line. Ruck failed at the kick far out.

Gloucester pressed immediately on the drop-out, and Sysum had a shot for goal, but the ball failed to rise and a minor resulted. Gloucester were now having by far the better of the exchanges, and Humphries, although pressed, managed to get the ball away, and after a good pass Powell received. He had a long way to go, but putting all his heart into it, he sprinted in fine style and got round his man finely and scored a splendid try. Rick goaled with a grand kick.

Gloucester were quickly at it again and gave the Foresters no rest. Wild passing, however, let Bream clear, but Bloxsome soon sent them back with well-judged touch-finders. Bream gradually worked up into the Gloucester 25, but again Bloxsome cleared and centre play followed until a long kick forced a touchdown by Vedmore.

Gloucester continued to have the best of matters, and Ruck fielding from a kick, ran right up among his three-quarters and, passing at the right moment to Webb, the latter again raced round the opposition and scored a good try. Ruck failed to majorise.

Gloucester maintained the upper hand until the end, but did not score again.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 1 goal 3 tries (14 points)
Bream Nil

REMARKS.

It was a real good win for the Seconds – a win strictly on their merits, well worked for and well earned. The Foresters had a hard, bashing, heavy lot in front, but the Second boys were too clever for them, and Humphries played an immeasurably better game than a fortnight ago. He let the ball go quickly and cleanly in spite of the close and often off-side tactics of his *vis-a-vis*, and consequently Cummings had chances to open out the game, which he did in capital style.

All the three-quarters were in excellent form, though Sysum is inclined to slack a bit at times. Bloxsome did a lot of very useful saving work, while Powell most emphatically endorses the former good opinion formed of him. He goes straight and fast, and is an excellent tackler. A little more experience and this boy will be knocking at the door of the First XV., and will not be denied. Ruck played a good game, but he should find touch more.