

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1897

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. OLD EDWARDIANS

THE CITY TEAM'S FIRST OUT MATCH

Gloucester paid their only visit to Birmingham this afternoon, when they opposed the Old Edwardians at Moseley. Previous matches between the clubs had gone wholly in favour of the City team, and to-day's encounter was voted another good thing for the visitors. Occasionally the Old Boys have made matters uncomfortable during the game, but the form they exhibited against Rugby last week was not very encouraging. The Midland Railway Company ran a cheap excursion to Birmingham in connection with the match, and a goodly number of football enthusiasts accompanied the team. The players turned out as follows : –

GLOUCESTER	Positions	EDWARDIANS
B. Hipwood	Backs	Barrett
W. H. Taylor (capt.)	Three-quarters	Marris
R. Goddard	"	Walford
P. W. Stout	"	Flewitt
J. Cook	"	Nicol
A. Stephens	Half-backs	Goodman
Car Cummings	"	Lovatt
C. Williams	Forwards	Taplin
C. Hall	"	Walford
C. Rose	"	Slater
F. M. Stout	"	Turner
A. H. Click	"	Siddons
Bert Lewis	"	French
C. Goulding	"	Carlake
T. Hatherall	"	Brawn

Referee : Mr. E. B. Holmes (Midland Counties).

The weather was fine, but the attendance moderate. Cook took Clutterbuck's place in the Gloucester team, owing to the latter suffering from an injury sustained a fortnight ago.

The Gloucester captain won the toss, and the Edwardians kicked off, there being only a poor return. The first scrum ensued in the visitors' half. The Gloucester forwards relieved, and Percy Stout and Hipwood with kicks transferred play to the Edwardians' line, where Goulding almost got over. A penalty kick to Edwardians brought relief, but Gloucester attacked again, and Percy Stout nearly dropped a goal.

Ensuing play was evenly contested near the centre, the Edwardians' front rank doing some effective foot work. The visitors were at length set going, but the tackling of the Old Boys was very keen, and few openings accrued.

Smart play by Percy Stout eventually gave Gloucester an opportunity, and the result was a capital try by Frank Stout, the International getting in from a pass from his brother. Percy Stout kicked a good goal.

On the restart the home team played up splendidly, and the Gloucester lines narrowly escaped on two occasions. By useful kicks the City team worked out, and then Taylor, following up a tricky punt by Goddard over the line, scored a try. Percy Stout converted.

Immediately on resuming Frank Stout charged down Barrett's return, and Cook notched the third try in the corner. No goal resulted.

Gloucester pressed severely on the drop-out, but could not add to the score.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 2 goals, 1 try
Edwardians Nil

Gloucester restarted operations, and the game opened at mid-field. Percy Stout was prominent with a couple of dashing runs, but his passes were not taken. Goodman and Nicol retaliated with some exceedingly pretty work, with the result that the Old Boys got dangerously near their opponents' line. Nicol looked a certain scorer once, but he was held outside.

A good punt by Stephens enabled his side to clear, and Gloucester eventually found a footing inside their opponents' half. The home forwards worked back again, their loose rushes proving very effective. Frank Stout headed the city front rank in a fine dribble, but Beckett[*sic*] saved in daring style.

Play just now was very dull, and mistakes were frequent. A well-directed rush started by the Old Boys at length gave their side an advantage, and Gloucester were forced to concede a minor. This performance they had to repeat a couple of minutes later.

On the re-start Gloucester attacked vigorously, and twice they crossed their opponents' line, only, however, to be called back for off-side play.

The visitors were not to be outdone, and following a sharp attack Goulding scored from a forward rush. Percy Stout goaled.

For the next few minutes Gloucester made desperate efforts to increase their lead, and Taylor only just missed crossing on two occasions in the corner.

Play to the finish was keenly contested, but there was no more scoring.

RESULT :

Gloucester 3 goals, 1 try (18 points)
Edwardians Nil

REMARKS

The Edwardians, as usual, played a strong forward game, and were not so badly beaten as the score would indicate. The ground was very rough, and appeared to severely handicap the Gloucester men, especially the backs.

Taking the game all through it was a dull sort of exhibition, and especially was this the case for the first few minutes in the second half. The forwards monopolised most of the play, and in this department the Old Boys performed exceedingly well, their loose rushes taking a lot of stopping.

For Gloucester Frank Stout, Goulding, Hall, and Lewis did a lot of sound work. Behind the scrummage Percy Stout again outshone his confreres, his magnificent kicking being one of the features of the match. Goddard also performed in good style, whilst Cook shaped creditably. Taylor was too well marked to distinguish himself greatly, but the Gloucester captain did not give much away. Stephens and Cummings had plenty to look after in Goodman and Lovatt.

JC