

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1897

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CLIFTON

GLOUCESTER'S RECORD UNBROKEN

THE ONE HUNDREDTH POINT

FIRST SCORE AGAINST THE CITIZENS

These old opponents met at Clifton for their return match. Of late years Gloucester have held a pronounced advantage over their rivals, and the fixtures are generally regarded amongst the softest on the city club's card.

To-day's contest, however, was looked upon with some degree of anxiety by Gloucester's supporters, many being of opinion that the club's unbeaten record was in serious danger of being smudged.

The cause for this apprehension was due to the fact that Gloucester had to enter the contest minus the services of six of their best players, all doing duty for the county against Cornwall.

The reserves called upon had certainly distinguished themselves in the A team, but they could scarcely be classed on a par with the men away.

Clifton placed a strong fifteen in the field, and after the excellent form displayed against Weston last week, anticipated a very close fight with their rivals.

The teams turned out as follows : –

GLOUCESTER	Positions	CLIFTON
G. Romans	Backs	W. J. Liss
H. Broady	Three-quarters	T. Watkins-Baker
J. Cook	"	F. E. Thomas
R. Goddard	"	E. L. Thomas
G. F. Clutterbuck	"	S. Bostock-Smith
A. Stephens	Half-backs	C. W. James
Car Cummings	"	G. H. Beloe
C. Williams (capt.)	Forwards	W. H. Birch
C. Rose	"	H. Mills
A. H. Click	"	H. Clissold
F. Goulding	"	P. H. Thomas
T. Hatherall	"	S. Berry
Bert Lewis	"	S. S. Marsden
W. Payne	"	– . Senior
G. Barnes	"	J. F. McQueen

Referee : Mr. Lawes (Bristol)

Fine weather prevailed, but the attendance was very sparse, there being only about a couple of hundred spectators present. Gloucester won the toss, and the home team started, play settling down at the centre. Good work by the Gloucester forwards gave the visitors the advantage, and following a combined rush Clutterbuck scored a try in the corner within three minutes of the start. Romans' kick for goal struck the upright.

On the drop-out Gloucester immediately returned to the attack, and the Clifton lines had a narrow escape. By a useful dribble the Cliftonians worked out of danger, but a good kick by Goddard and smart work by Lewis nearly resulted in another score, Clifton saving by touching down.

Following the kick-out Broady and Clutterbuck got away after good passing, but Liss brought his man down in each instance.

By dint of hard forward work Clifton relieved the pressure, and passing between their backs gave Baker a good chance, but the latter was finely tackled by Romans. Clifton looked dangerous for a moment, but the City team quickly removed hostilities, and Cook with a fine pass sent the ball into touch in the Clifton 25.

Some loose play ensued in close proximity to the home line, as the result of which Click scored just wide of the posts. Romans goaled.

Gloucester continued to have all the game, and only missed scoring on several occasions by the merest shave.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 goal, 1 try
Clifton Nil

Gloucester re-started, but Clifton with a loose rush got dangerously near the visitors' line, Romans taking the ball over. A scrum was ordered five yards out, from which James made a good attempt to cross. Gloucester relieved slightly, but the home team worked desperately hard and had hard lines in not scoring, Baker and F. Thomas only being held outside.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 goals, 1 try (13 points)
Clifton 1 try (3 points)