

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1898

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. WESTON

A ONE-SIDED GAME

GLOUCESTER IN A SCORING MOOD

PERCY STOUT HAS A DAY OUT

Played at Kingsholm in miserable weather, and before a very moderate attendance. Gloucester were again weak, for though the brothers Stout re-appeared in the ranks of the City team, Taylor, Clutterbuck, Hipwood, Rose, and Click were unable to turn out, the two latter suffering from the effects of severe colds. There were three alterations in the advertised Weston side. The teams were as follow : —

GLOUCESTER	Positions	WESTON
G. Romans	Back	C. Dyer
C. Smith	Three-quarters	W. Goodchild
P. Stout	"	C. Hornett
F. M. Luce	"	H. Hornett
W. Dovey	"	H. Norris
A. Stephens	Half-backs	J. Haines
Car Cummings	"	C. Amesbury
C. Williams	Forwards	T. Banwell
C. Hall	"	J. Nation
F. M. Stout	"	H. L. David
F. Goulding	"	F. Hutchings
G. H. Smith	"	M. Frampton
R. Hough	"	C. Cole
B. L. Watkins	"	W. Frost
F. Oswell	"	F. Phillips

Referee : Mr. G. Thomas (Gloucester County Union)

THE GAME

The players took the field a quarter of an hour late, a drizzling rain falling. Weston won the toss and Frank Stout started from the Dean's Walk goal. The City forwards got well up, and the return being prevented the first scrum was formed in the Weston 25.

Cummings secured and passing to Stephens the latter kicked into touch near the visitors' line. From the throw-out the ball got out to the home backs, and Percy Stout getting hold the International made a strong effort to cross, but he was hauled down by Dyer. Gloucester, however, still attacked strongly, and the Weston defence was severely taxed. At last a pretty movement by Stephens gave Dovey possession on the left wing. The second teamer easily beat a couple of would-be tacklers, and went across with a capital try within five minutes of the start. Percy Stout landed a fine goal.

The visitors re-started, but a smart effort by Ben Hough gave the home side a splendid opening. Hough gave Luce a nice pass, and a score seemed certain, but the Old Cheltonian passed forward at the critical moment. For off-side play by the visiting halves Weston were penalised, and from the favourable position P. Stout kicked a nice goal, thus giving the home men a lead of eight points within as many minutes.

Percy Stout replied to the kick-off with a huge punt, which caused operations to be to be contested in the Weston half. Here Stephens and Cummings started a couple of bouts of passing which looked promising, but in the one instance Luce handed forward, and in the other P. Stout was collared from behind when within a dozen yards of the goal.

By loose rushing Weston reached the half-way, where Cummings made his mark. The charge was disallowed, but P. Stout found the distance too great. Play continued to hover in close proximity to the Weston line, and Cummings and Stephens gave their backs several opportunities, but knocks-on spoiled the openings. The greasy state of the ground and ball, however, accounted in a great measure for the mistakes.

By the aid of a couple of useful kicks Weston worked out of danger, but a clever combined rush by the city forwards took play back to the visitors' 25. Here Stephens secured from a scrum, and, passing out to Luce, the latter, though surrounded by opponents, slipped through in ridiculously easy fashion under the posts. Percy Stout unaccountably failed at the place-kick.

Weston dropped out, and two or three marks fell to either side in quick succession. Then the Gloucester forwards, heeling out nicely, gave Stephens possession, the latter yielded up to Cummings, and then Percy Stout was given possession. Running strongly the International rounded the opposing three-quarters, and brushing aside the full-back finished up a capital effort by scoring behind the posts. Again, however, the easy place-kick failed.

It was evident the visitors were absolutely out of it, and the home men practically did as they liked.

After Stephens had only just failed to put Dovey in, the same player gave Luce a nice opening, which the Oxonian took full advantage of, dodging clean through under the posts. This time P. Stout added the extra points, bringing the total up to 19 points against the visitors.

Weston re-started from the centre, but play was quickly transferred to their half. For coming round the wrong side of the scrum one of the Weston halves again came under the ban of the referee, and from the place Percy Stout kicked a fine goal.

On resuming, Dovey was prominent with two exceedingly clever runs, but he was finally hauled down before getting absolutely clear.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 4 goals (2 d), 2 tries
Weston Nil

Weston resumed, and Luce failing to field the first time, he was only able to get in a weak kick into touch in his own 25. Gloucester, however, quickly rushed out to the centre, where the ball was given to Percy Stout. The crack Gloucesterian was pressed severely, but clearing the opposition in superb style he raced clean through the Weston ranks, concluding a magnificent run – one of the finest ever seen on the ground – by placing the ball behind the posts. The same player converted.

The restart saw no change in the venue of play, for almost immediately Weston were again on the defensive. Following up a kick Dovey charged down the return, and the ball bounding across the ground to Watkins, the latter secured and went over with an easy try. No goal resulted.

On the drop-out Gloucester again rushed down to their opponents' line, where Percy Stout only missed another certain score by failing to properly take the ball from Luce. The city team continued to have all the game, and following a loose dribble Oswell picked up and scored the eighth try. The kick at goal proved unsuccessful. The visitors were hopelessly outclassed at all points, and Romans had not handled the ball this half. A pretty movement by Stephens placed the home backs in a favourable position for scoring, and the ball being handled nicely by C. Smith and Percy Stout, the latter raced over again. The try was converted.

After the re-start the home men played in somewhat scrambling fashion for a few minutes, with the result that Weston paid a visit to their quarters. The home team, however, easily held their opponents, and after a brief rest they quickly got on the attack once more. Dovey made a fine run down the touch-line, but he was floored outside. The ball, however, got loose, and Percy Stout picking up dropped a remarkably fine goal from near the touch-line, amidst great cheering. Play to the finish favoured Gloucester and Percy Stout put Smith in after a brilliant run; whilst the International added another try before the end came. The latter was converted.

RESULT :

Gloucester ... 8 goals (2 p, 1 d), 6 tries (50 points)
Weston Nil

REMARKS

Comment on such a one-sided game is needless. The visitors never had the semblance of a look-in, and from the very outset they appeared absolutely demoralised. The home forwards had matters all their own way, and heeled out and wheeled the scrums at will.

The Gloucester backs had quite a day out, and despite the greasy state of the ball some beautiful running and passing were witnessed. Of course there were a good many mistakes made in handling, but these were excusable under the circumstances.

Percy Stout, taking full advantage of the weak opposition offered by the Weston back division, was in his element, and on two or three occasions he beat practically the whole of the visiting team. Altogether the International scored four tries, landed two penalty goals, dropped another, and converted five tries out of the ten attempts – a satisfactory afternoon's work if you like.

Of the other Gloucester three-quarters, Dovey was the more distinguished, the ex-West Ender making some splendid dodgy runs. Luce's two tries were the outcome of very clever efforts, the manner in which he slipped by about half a dozen opponents on one occasion causing great amusement. Smith on the right wing, did not get many chances, but he was never at fault. At half-back, Stephens and Cummings were in their happiest mood, and did many clever things. Romans had an idle afternoon, and so rarely did he touch the ball that the crowd advised him to go in the scrum. The City forwards all played well, and some very smart work was accomplished in the open.

Weston were so palpably outclassed that there is very little to say in their favour. Now and again the forwards exhibited some decent footwork, but they never once got beyond the quarter flag.

The gate money amounted to £13 – the lowest taken at Kingsholm this season.

BIG SCORES BY GLOUCESTER

A LOOK INTO THE PAST

The score of 8 goals (2 p, 1 d), 5 tries to nil is a record for the Gloucester Club on the Kingsholm Ground, the previous best being 6 goals (2 d), 4 tries against Burton, on February 4th, 1893. The record for the Club is 5 goals, 12 tries to nil, against Bath on October 13th, 1883.

Other big scores put on by the City team during the career are : –

6 goals, 8 tries	v. Rockleaze,	Nov. 29, 1879.
5 goals, 4 tries	v. Rockleaze,	Nov. 20, 1880.
1 goal, 10 tries	v. Swindon,	March 2, 1889.
5 goals, 8 tries	v. Rugby,	October 11, 1890.
2 goals, 8 tries	v. Exeter,	December 6, 1890.
6 goals, 2 tries	v. Kent Wdrs.,	Dec. 27, 1892.