

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1898

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD

THE CITY TEAM IN THE FOREST

FORESTERS BEATEN BY A PENALTY KICK

Gloucester took a strong team to Cinderford to play the return match with the Forest Champions, Frank Stout being the only absentee. The first game was won pretty comfortably by Gloucester, and though the visitors fully expected to come out on top again this afternoon, they were prepared for a much closer fight. The contest created a great deal of interest, especially in the Forest, and a large attendance of spectators was anticipated. The weather was bitterly cold, a gale of wind blowing obliquely across the ground. It was after four o'clock before the players entered the field. The teams were : –

GLOUCESTER	Positions	CINDERFORD
G. Romans	Back	S. Lewis
W. H. Taylor	Three-quarters	F. Martin
P. W. Stout	"	W. Bevan
F. M. Luce	"	H. Williams
G. F. Clutterbuck	"	F. Baldwin
A. Stephens	Half-backs	G. Barton
Car Cummings	"	T. Willstead
C. Williams	Forwards	W. Leighton
C. Hall	"	W. Mudway
C. Rose	"	S. Body
W. Hughes	"	D. Smith
A. H. Click	"	E. Hatton
F. Goulding	"	A. Brain
B. L. Watkins	"	A. Robins
G. H. Smith	"	G. Berrows

Referee : Mr. A. J. Davies (Cardiff).

THE GAME

Gloucester won the toss, and Leighton started for the home team uphill and against the breeze. Luce replied to the kick-off, play opening in the Cinderford half.

A good rush by the home forwards transferred hostilities to the visitors' quarters, but Watkins, bursting away from the line-out, dribbled to the other end, where Luce, Stephens, and Cummings tried hard to break through, but Lewis tackled well. The Cinderford forwards, wheeling a scrum, rushed out of danger, and the ball being kicked past Romans, Percy Stout had to run back to gather, which he did effectually, getting a good kick in.

Ensuing play favoured Gloucester, and Taylor had a good opening, but the wind took the ball forward. Then the Cinderford backs got away with a fine bout of passing, the ball being handled very smartly. Bevan, however, passed forward to Martin on the line and a splendid chance of scoring was lost.

The Foresters were getting the better of the tight scrums, and were more than holding their own in front. At length Stephens made off from the scrum, and made a good opening but his pass went astray. Taylor and Stout had shots at goal in quick succession, but only minors resulted. Soon afterwards, however, the International covered the cross-bar from a penalty. Nothing further was done to the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 goal (d)
Cinderford	Nil

Hall re-started, Robins replying into touch a few yards outside the Gloucester goal-line. Good work by the visiting backs relieved to near half-way, but Willstead, with a good run, took the game back. Gloucester were being pressed severely, but Stephens and Cummings gained relief with useful punts.

For off-side play Gloucester were penalised, but Robins failed at goal. On the drop-out Stout and Taylor showed up with some clever passing on the right wing, but they were stopped at the centre. Then Leighton, gathering the ball in the loose, made a strong run, but his pass was missed at the critical moment.

The ensuing play favoured Cinderford, who went very near scoring on two occasions. Then an excellent rush by the Gloucester forwards took the play to half-way. Here operations were hotly contested for several minutes, both sides working with great energy.

A capital combined movement by the Gloucester halves and Clutterbuck gained some twenty yards, but Cinderford retaliated and fought every inch of the ground. Then wind interfered with the game considerably, the players at times being totally unable to gather the ball.

Play for the next few minutes hovered near the centre, but there was little advantage to either side. Cinderford scored a minor from a long kick. The Foresters continued to have the best of the game to within a few minutes of the finish, when Gloucester attacked. Taylor made a grand run just before the finish, but was collared on the line.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal (d), (3 points)
Cinderford Nil

REMARKS

On the day's play Gloucester were very lucky to win. Of course, the game was spoiled by the wind, good back play being totally out of the question. The Cinderford forwards played a resolute game throughout, their tackling and loose forward work being very effective.

The City front rank had the best of the lines-out, but they lacked the dash of their opponents. Behind the scrummage Stephens did well, but the Gloucester pair found in Barton and Willstead quite as much as they could manage.

With regard to the backs, any mistakes they made were quite excusable, for the weather was perishing. There was little passing attempted, the players going in for kicking as often as possible. Percy Stout did a lot of saving, but it was not a day for anything special in individual efforts.

GLOUCESTER A v. CINDERFORD A

This match followed immediately after the Cup semi-final. The Cinderford team came short, but suitable substitutes were found.

The teams were :—

GLOUCESTER A. — F. Griffiths, back; W. Dovey, C. Smith, F. Weaver, and J. Cook, three-quarter backs; R. Goddard and E. T. James, half-backs; W. Payne, B. Hough, W. Manley, W. White, F. Oswell, J. Lewis, F. Hughes, and W. Manns, forwards.

CINDERFORD A. — Finch, back; Wakefield, N. Little, T. Rhodes, and Bishop, three-quarter backs; R. Bevan and F. Wilce, half-backs; A. Worsfeld, W. Fields, W. Hale, F. Hall, T. Baldwin, J. Hewlett, E. Embling, and T. Bowkett, forwards.

Referee : Mr. E. W. Loxton.

Cinderford kicked off, and Gloucester at once pressed, and eventually James scored a good try near the posts, Griffiths failing miserably at the kick.

Afterwards a grand bout of passing between James, Goddard, Whacker Smith, Dovey, and Cook let the latter in in the corner after a good run. Goddard goaled.

Then White scored under the posts, and Goddard kicked a goal. Hough made a grand run, and Cinderford had to defend to the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A	2 goals, 1 try
Cinderford A	Nil

Soon after re-starting Goddard scored again for the homesters, the same player failing at goal.

Gloucester seemed to slacken their exertions, and as a consequence from a rush a Cinderford forward scored, no goal resulting.

Subsequently Gloucester woke up, and "Whacker" Smith, taking a pass from Dovey, after a grand run, scored behind the posts, Goddard unaccountably failing at the kick.

After this Gloucester touched down, and Finch retired with an injured shoulder. Cook ran right round and scored again behind the posts, the same player failing at the kick.

Play was in the centre when no-side was whistled.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 2 goals, 4 tries (22 points)

Cinderford A 1 try (3 points)