

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1913

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. NORTHAMPTON

A RED HOT GAME

CITY PLAYERS LOSE UNLUCKY GAME

After three home fixtures and three victories recorded with an aggregate of 77 points to 3, Gloucester were engaged in their first out match to-day at Northampton. Though occasionally suffering defeat in the East Midland town, the City team usually perform well against Northampton, and one or two notable wins, with disorganised sides, have been obtained. Last year honours went to Northampton by two tries to one in a very close and keen game.

For this afternoon's engagement Gloucester fielded a representative fifteen. Both L. Hamblin and A. Hall, who were thought to have been seriously injured last week against Moseley, made satisfactory recoveries, and were fortunately able to take their places in the City ranks.

Forward, G. Halford, the captain, resumed, but A. Saunders (who recently returned from Canada, and was invited to play) has decided to assist Bream this season, and thus allowed A. Cook, the ninth forward chosen, to retain his place in the front.

There were several new faces in the Northampton team, but the side did well in the two opening matches, Bedford being handsomely defeated last Saturday.

GLOUCESTER	POSITIONS	NORTHAMPTON
C. Cook	Backs.	F. C. Mawby
F. Webb	Three-Quarter	E. C. Cook (capt.)
A. Lewis	Backs	E. D. Lindow
L. Hamblin	"	R. Spanton
W. Washbourn	"	L. E. Barnes
A. Hall	Half-Backs	C. Freer
J. Baker	"	J. Greenwood
G. Halford (capt.)	Forwards	A. C. Bull
N. Hayes	"	C. P. Tebbitt
S. Smart	"	F. Muddiman
S. Millard	"	T. Collins
J. Meadows	"	W. Welch
W. Parham	"	J. Smith
C. Mumford	"	C. W. L. Jack
A. Cook	"	W. H. Austin

Referee : Mr. D. A. Rate (Midland Counties).

THE GAME

Summerlike weather prevailed and a capital crowd was present, the fixture being very popular with the East Midlanders. Gloucester kicked off, and the first two or three minutes were fought out at the centre. A surprise score was early forthcoming to the credit of Northampton, the City being clearly caught napping. Gloucester heeled, but something went wrong and Spanton, taking a flying kick, sent past Cook. Lindow followed through, and gathering the ball on the run passed to Bull, who scored in the corner. Muddiman failed at goal.

Gloucester resumed strongly, and there was a nice bout of passing, but Hamblin threw forward to Webb. C. Cook recovered wonderfully from the Northampton forwards, and Hall with a good burst took Gloucester down, but the pass was intercepted and Northampton returned.

The visitors came again with good rushing, and Hall improved with a couple of sterling runs. From one of these he passed wide to Washbourn, who made a gallant attempt to score, being forced into touch in goal by the Northampton captain.

Following the drop-out Gloucester attacked, the forwards playing with splendid dash. Useful kicking by the home backs changed the venue, but Hall put Gloucester on the move again, and Hamblin forced a minor with a big kick over the line. Hamblin was prominent with a tricky run on re-starting, and Lewis with a well judged kick sent home close to the Northampton line. From a scrum Baker broke round on the short side, and feeding Webb the latter darted over with an equalising try. C. Cook failed at goal.

Play was resumed in grim earnest, Gloucester playing well together. The forwards were well matched, but so far there had not been a great deal of combined back play. Gloucester confined play to their opponents' half, and fumbling between Mawby and Barnes gave the City a good position on the quarter line. Baker hereabouts fed Hall smartly, and the latter burst through a bunch of opponents but his transfer went forward.

Northampton cleared from the dangerous position with loose rushing, which Cook luckily checked after mis-fielding, and then Halford led his pack in a fine dribble which ended in the ball going to touch well inside the 25. The East Midlanders replied with an equally good effort. Fine kicking sent to Cook on his line, but the City custodian got in a clever clearance, and found touch at mid-field with his kick.

Ensuing play was very keen amongst the forwards. Good work in the line-out by the City men looked promising, but the ball was lost, and the home players sent luckily to touch. Pretty passing by the Gloucester backs saw Washbourn make a good dash, and then Northampton saved by kicking dead – a lucky escape.

Gloucester had all the better of the exchanges, and the home team were fortunate in warding off danger. By good combined forward

movements Northampton eventually cleared, and the game was at the centre at the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 try
Northampton 1 try

Northampton re-started, and at once gained a footing in the visitors' end. Hall punted out well, and the centre was reached. Hamblin distinguished himself with two good runs, but held on a bit too long, and the good work was nullified.

Northampton were awarded a penalty for an infringement, but little ground was gained, the City forwards combining in a brilliant dribble which was not stopped until a dozen yards from the line. Lindow saved well under pressure, and Bull, leading a forward rush, C. Cook was closely pressed. He and Webb, however, saved between them, and Gloucester afterwards cleared to mid-field.

It was a red hot game with plenty of desperate tackling, but finish was lacking. Northampton carrying a scrum Smith broke away, and the City line had a narrow escape. Cook cleared cleverly, and Baker, following up a kick by Washbourn, charged down Mawby's return. A colleague, however, was handy, and turned the ball to touch. From this point the Gloucester backs were set going, but the final pass went astray, and Northampton saved by touching down.

Gloucester were attacking strongly now, but over eagerness cost the visitors a penalty, and this enabled Northampton to ease the pressure. Gloucester, however, rushed back again, Barnes and then E. Cook bringing relief. Gloucester continued to maintain the upper hand, but could not gain the desired opening. Then some lucky loose kicking allowed Northampton to gain more favourable quarters, and Hall's pass being snapped up by an opponent the home team got dangerous, and following a scramble close in Barnes was credited with a try. Muddiman failed at goal.

Encouraged by this success, Northampton attacked with desperate vigour. Gloucester were at once beaten back, but in a melee on the line Bull scrambled over near the posts. The goal kick again failed.

This time the score bucked up Gloucester, and the City got in an attack, but their luck was dead out. When within scoring distance Lewis had a chance, but dropped for goal and missed. After this Gloucester attacked again, but lost their position.

Feeling was pretty high, and Mumford and Smith were ordered off five minutes before the end. Gloucester tried hard in the closing stages to add to their score, but the defence was stubborn and sound, and nothing further was scored.

RESULT :

Northampton 3 tries (9 points)
Gloucester 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

It was a strenuously fought game, and much [1, 2 words unreadable] keen for brilliant play. Both sets of forwards played with desperate abandon and much good work was witnessed, especially in the loose. Gloucester, on the run of the game, ought to have shared the honours, but the team got no luck. None of the tries scored had any exceptional merit, but Northampton were certainly the better opportunists.

The Gloucester forwards did much better all round, though their heeling was not quick enough. Baker was rather slow at times in the scrum, and though Hall brought off some telling bursts he was several times at fault in taking his passes. His transfers too, were not always given with the best of judgment. Hamblin did some smart things at centre, and the others did good work. Cook played a very fine game at full-back, and outshone Mawby. Northampton played with splendid dash, and the backs tackled well. E. Cook and Lindow were the pick behind, the captain working very hard.

GLOUCESTER A v. CINDERFORD A

EASY WIN FOR THE SECONDS

CINDERFORD PLAYER'S LEG BROKEN

Gloucester A opened their season at Kingsholm in brilliant weather. The only alteration in the home side was that W. Johns tested his fitness in the front in place of Cook. There was a small crowd present when the teams lined out as follows : –

Gloucester A. – F. W. Hayward; T. Powell, S. Sysum, H. Wager, and F. Bloxsome (capt.); T. Burns and J. Humphreys; J. Harris, E. Osborne, L. Smith, J. F. Lawson, Greening, E. Russell, R. Comley, and W. Johns.

Cinderford A. – T. Bevan; F. Beard, A. Jones, W. Leighton, and S. Thomas; G. Phelps and W. J. Davies; A. Wood, W. Elton, W. Jones, Jim Cook, J. Pick, F. Morgan, B. Edwards, and F. Coombes.

Cinderford started, and Wager replied with a nice punt to touch. Then Bloxsome got in a nice kick, but Bevan marked, and with the resultant kick put his side on the attack. Burns sent a bad pass to Humphreys, and the latter failing to accept the Cinderford forwards rushed to the other end.

After an exciting tussle on the line Harris brought relief with a brilliant dribble, which took play to past the half-way line.

Humphreys secured from the scrum and passed to Burns, but the latter when tackled sent straight into the visitor's hands. The latter kicked to Hayward, whose kick was charged down, but Powell got back and effected a nice clearance. Gloucester pressed, but Bevan was safe and sent them back with a useful kick to touch.

Later Harris led a forward rush which took play in close proximity to the visitors' line. Bevan in relieving sent to Humphreys, who made a

good attempt to drop a goal from long range. Cinderford were again dangerous owing to faulty handling by the homesters. Then Burns completely changed the venue. He beat several opponents and then transferred to Powell, but the latter knocked on when a try seemed certain.

After the next scrum the visitors came back again with a rush, and Bloxsome was temporarily laid out in attempting to stem it. Cinderford got right to the City line, where Sysum cleared under difficulties. A series of scrums followed in the Gloucester 25, and then Phelps, securing in a good position, dropped a neat goal and put the Foresters four up.

On the re-start some keen play was witnessed in the Cinderford quarter, Johns being prominent. A promising passing movement was initiated in the home 25, but Wager allowed himself to be tackled before letting the ball go, and thus a chance of relieving the pressure of Cinderford was lost. The visitors continued to have the better of the game, and getting right to the line Hayward lost the ball and Coombes touched down with a try. The goal points were added.

On the re-start Gloucester got into their opponents' territory, and the ball was punted across to Sysum, who immediately handed to Powell for the latter to beat a couple of men and run round behind the posts. Hayward failed with the easy kick.

Sysum a minute later was nearly over again, and then Powell was only pulled down just on the line. The three-quarter line indulged in a nice passing bout, but Bloxsome could not quite clear the opposition. However, the 'Cestrians were not to be denied, and Russell, in a forward rush, went over in the corner. Hayward again failed with the kick. At half-time the City were still pressing.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Cinderford A 2 goals (1d)
Gloucester A 2 tries

Immediately after the resumption Burns scored a beautiful try for the City. He was given the ball just over the half-way line, and running strongly he beat several men and gave the "dummy" to another near the line, and crossed in the corner. Hayward, with a splendid kick, gave Gloucester a two-points' lead.

The homesters were now playing a far better game, and Burns was again prominent with a pretty cut through. The ball was subsequently taken to Bevan, who cleared well, but was temporarily laid out in doing so. Sysum secured, and cleverly beating the opposition both in swerve and in pace he scored under the posts. Hayward converted.

Later Sysum relieve under difficulties, and again put Gloucester on the attack. Humphreys getting the ball from a scrum, dribbled well and beat Bevan, but he kicked too hard, and the ball went dead.

From the drop out Hayward found touch right in the corner, but Cinderford by the aid of a mark worked out to near midfield.

Some scrambling play at the centre resulted in Gloucester again forcing matters, and Bloxsome twice only missed scoring by the barest of margins.

Then in a scramble A. Wood, a Forester, had the misfortune to break his leg, and the game was delayed while he was attended by the Ambulance men prior to being removed on a stretcher to the Infirmary.

Only another minute remained for play, and nothing could be done in that period.

RESULT :

Gloucester A. 2 goals 2 tries (16 points)
Cinderford A 2 goals (1d) (9 points)

REMARKS.

Gloucester A were undoubtedly the superior team when they settled down after the first quarter of an hour, but that time was sufficient for the Foresters to benefit to the extent of nine points.

This, however, did not deter the homesters, who before the interval should have been on level terms but for Hayward's faulty goal-kicking. They, however, quickly took the lead afterwards, and in the second moiety practically held the upper hand throughout.

The Cinderford forwards played a good, dashing game, but they were well held by the City eight, although the latter were not as smart at heeling as they will probably be after the first two or three matches. The three-quarters had plenty of opportunities, but at times they hardly utilised them to the best advantage, the players preferring individual effort to combined movement.

Humphreys and Burns were smart at half against a nippy Cinderford pair, the latter shining in particular with some brilliant solo efforts. Of the three-quarters, Sysum did many clever things, while Bloxsome and Trevor Powell showed that they possess plenty of vim and dash. The latter's try was a nice effort.

Hayward kicked a good length, and was, as usual, a safe custodian. Johns made his presence felt in the front, and he was well supported by Harris, Russell, and Smith, the latter a newcomer.

On the Cinderford side, Bevan, at back, played a particularly good game.