

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1918

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. 3RD GLOUCESTER REGIMENT

CITY WIN A HARD, KEEN GAME

There was a happy reunion of forces at Kingsholm, when the first of three holiday matches arranged by the Gloucester F.C. was played, a City team being opposed by the 3rd Gloucester Regiment from Maidstone.

It was quite like old times to see Arthur Hudson, C. Cook, Washbourn, Dix, Hayes, and Hall once more associated together on the popular playing field at headquarters, and it is sincerely to be hoped that, having started the game again, occasional fixtures will be practicable throughout the season.

The 3rd Gloucesters came with a good reputation, and having been playing regularly held a distinct advantage over the local side.

Teams : —

GLOUCESTER. — C. Cook; W. Washbourn, A. Hudson, W. Bowen, and F. W. Hayward; W. Dix and A. Hall; N. Hayes, E. Merchant, A. Redding, A. Ward, Sergt. Lee, G. Lane, J. H. Webb, and T. Taylor.

3RD. GLOUCESTERS. — Pte. Miller; L.-Corpl. Goode, Major Lewis (capt.), L.-Corpl. Rowe, and Sergt. Major Pugh; Sergt. Woodford and Sergt. Davis; Lieut. Gill, Corpl. Phelps, Corpl. Meecham, L.-Corpl. Bragg, Pte. Pick, Pte. Kesterton, Sergt. Bailey, and Sergt.-Drummer Shorter.

Referee : Mr. W. Thomas (County Referees' Union).

There was a fair attendance when the players took the field, but there were numbers of visitors outside the gates, the arrangements for admission not working satisfactorily.

The soldiers kicked off, and opening play, of a scrambling forward character, was contested in the Gloucester half. A well-judged punt by Miller put Gloucester on the defensive, but Cook relieved with a nice touch-finder from a mark. A sharp dash by Hudson and pass to Hall enabled the latter to make headway, but Miller checked well.

The Regiment forwards, with a loose rush, got very close, but off-side brought them up, and Cook eased from the resultant free. Dix opened out shortly afterwards, and Hudson cut through and passed to Washbourn, but the latter slipped and fell to the ground. He, however, let the ball go, and Hudson gathering, he cross-punted to a forward, who galloped for the line but was tackled from behind. A penalty later fell to the City, but Cook failed in his attempted goal.

Gloucester did well with a pretty bit of open play on the drop-out, Bowen shining, but the defence prevailed. The soldiers worked out of the dangerous zone, but Cook kept play at mid-field with some excellent kicks. Near the centre Dix handed out to Hall, who fed Hudson, and the old International dashed off in his old style. He looked likely to clear the opposition, but essayed a pass which went wide of Washbourn.

The soldiers, by strong forward play, gained a good slice of ground, and play for a few minutes settled in the Gloucester half. Opening out, the City backs indulged in a fine bout of passing and running, in which Hudson and Bowen were prominent. The latter raced to the full-back, when he handed to Hayward, who scored wide out. Cook missed the goal points.

Following the resumption Hayes distinguished himself with a fine effort from a line-out, which placed the visitors' lines in danger. From a scrum Dix passed out to Hudson, who side-stepped cleverly and scored a capital try. The place kick again failed.

Gloucester were quickly on the attack again, but failure to pick up lost a good opportunity. The soldiers' forwards were chiefly responsible for changing the venue, and for a time the City were hard pressed. The Regiment, however, made little use of their backs in attack. When the interval arrived play was in the Gloucester end.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 2 tries
3rd Gloucesters Nil

Opening play on the re-start was keen, and the Regiment early had a good opening, but Lewis passed wildly at the critical moment. Then Gloucester came away, Washbourn and Dix being prominent, but the tackling was sound.

Even play ensued, but was chiefly of a loose forward character and devoid of incident. A dashing burst by the home front promised well, but Pugh ran back and kicked to touch. The Soldiers returned and gradually worked towards the home 25. In some loose play near the line a Gloucester man lost the ball, and a visitor pounced upon it and scored. No goal resulted.

There was some exciting play on the drop-out, Hudson bringing off a fine run from a pass by Hall. In cutting the full-back, however, the City captain slipped and fell. Gloucester, however, took the ball on and tried hard to get through, but the defence prevailed.

Hudson was again to the fore a few minutes later with another splendid dash and pass, but the next transfer was ruled forward, though there was plenty of tackling on both sides.[sic]

Webb showed up with a nice individual effort for Gloucester which put the City well down, and later Hudson and Hall tried to open out, but were unsuccessful. Cook saved cleverly from a dangerous rush by the Regiment, and then the Gloucester half-backs started Hudson going. Putting on full pace, the old International cleared the opposition finely and scored near the posts. Dix failed at goal.

In the last few minutes the Regiment set up an attack, and profiting by mistakes on the part of some home players registered a lucky try. The place-kick failed.

RESULT :

Gloucester 3 tries (9 points)
3rd Gloucesters 2 tries (6 points)

REMARKS

A hard, keen game, which, despite some dull moments, was fairly interesting. The Regiment possessed a dashing pack of forwards, but they were lacking in cleverness and the finer points of the game. The Gloucester front lasted surprisingly well considering some of the men have played little football for a long time. In the scrums they held the mastery, and got the ball out far more frequently than their rivals.

Dix and Hall good work at half[*sic*], and it was a pleasure to see that the little scrum-worker had so far recovered from his experiences as a prisoner of war as to be able to play again. At three-quarter, Hudson was the shining light, his powerful running and general display being fully up to his best days. That second try of his especially was a lovely effort. Bowen did some useful work as co-centre, and Washbourn and Hayward showed that with practice they will soon get back to form. Cook was safe at back, and kicked with beautiful judgment. Miller, too, gave a clean display for the soldiers. The three-quarters had little chance in attack, but they tackled well. Pugh, a Gloucestrian, struck one as being a likely player on the wing, possessing plenty of dash and keenness.

We are asked to state that the Committee will make better and more adequate arrangements for the admission of spectators for the next two matches.