

THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1918

BOXING DAY FOOTBALL

4TH RESERVE GLOUCESTERS BEATEN AT KINGSHOLM

SOLDIERS' FIRST DEFEAT

The visit of the unbeaten 4th Reserve Gloucesters team from Seaton Delaval proved a popular attraction at Kingsholm on Boxing Day, and a large holiday crowd witnessed a well-contested game. There were two changes in the City team owing to the inability of W. Hall and A. Hall to turn out, J. Daniels replacing the Cinderfordian, whilst Lieut. Voyce partnered Dix at half-back, and Sergt.-Major Pugh (3rd Gloucesters) filled the vacancy at wing three-quarter. The Fourths had Lieut. Col. G. F. Collett, D.S.O., the old Cheltenham College, Gloucester and Cambridge University three-quarter, officiated as referee.

From the point of view of the spectator who delights in open and attractive football, the first half was disappointing, for it was mainly a tussle between the forwards. The soldiers had a keen, hard-working pack, who were fast on the ball and controlled the scrums for the main part. The heeling was not particularly clean, but the half-backs were provided with sufficient opportunities to give their third line plenty of chances.

Rigby and Beard, however, failed to take advantage, though occasionally prominent with smart bits of play, with the result that Fred Webb and his colleagues had no chance in attack. This was a pity, for the Regiment had the reputation of being very smart behind, and certainly the rare occasions Webb handled he showed he has lost none of that clever side-stepping and pace which made him one of the best wings in the West in season 1913-14.

The Gloucester forwards were very dangerous in the loose, and it was from one of these movements that led to a sharp attack on the visitors' line. From a scrum close in the soldiers heeled, but the ball was muddled behind, and Hayes pouncing on it scored the first try. The goal-kick failed.

Subsequent play was very hard, but the backs did not get much of a show. Individually, Voyce distinguished himself on several occasions, and the form of the old Schoolboy International all through was full of promise for the future. He was operating in a new position for him at outside half-back, but sufficient was seen of him to indicate that here is a first-class player in the making.

Clever combination between Beard and Rigby enabled the soldiers to set up a hot attack, and Cook being collared on the line Gloucester narrowly escaped. Hudson punted out finely to Smith (the visiting custodian), who ran back and secured a perfect opening for Graves Smith[*sic*]. He, however, held on, and slipping threw away a glorious opportunity of equalising the score.

After this the Gloucester backs passed nicely, but Washbourn was fetched down from behind. The City pressed to the interval, and nearly scored after a forward rush.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 try
4th Res. Gloucesters	Nil

The first quarter of an hour after the restart provided the most attractive football seen during the match. Gloucester early got on the move, the forwards settling down seriously to getting the ball out, and the backs indulged in some lovely passing bouts.

It was not long ere Hudson, receiving from the scrum, slipped through the opposing centres, and passing nicely inside to Daniels enabled the latter to score near the posts. Dix missed the goal.

Bowen was next prominent with a splendid dash, but was pushed to touch a few yards out. From the throw in J. Webb took the ball beautifully and scored. Halford this time tried the place-kick, but was unsuccessful.

Gloucester maintained the pressure, and following a perfect bit of combination between Dix, Voyce, Hudson, and Washbourn, the defence was clean beaten, Hudson getting a repass and scoring in a good position. Hayes added the extra points.

There was a falling off in the standard of play during the next twenty minutes, and there were few incidents of note. The soldiers, aided by a free-kick, gained a good position in the Gloucester 25, and from a long throw in Watkins gathered and went over the line in good style. Beard failed at goal.

Gloucester were not long in adding to their score, the backs handling smartly. Then the forwards broke away in fine style, G. Smith effecting a good save. The ball, however, got loose, and Hudson picking up dashed through and crossed the line with a couple of opponents on his back. Hayes missed the goal points.

To the end play favoured the City, but nothing further was scored, and the Regiment surrendered their unbeaten certificate on the old ground – so often a burial place for records in the past – by the substantial margin of 17 points to 3.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal 4 tries (17 points)

4th Res. Gloucesters 1 try (3 points)