

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1919

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. R. N. DEPOT (DEVONPORT)

Two important Rugby matches were set for decision at Kingsholm, the first being an Australian test trial preliminary to the selection of the side to take part in the Empire Services League Competition.

There was a splendid crowd present when these teams took the field for the second match. Fred Webb could not play for Gloucester but Lionel Hamblin reappeared. The Depot did not play their N.U. men (Buck Beames, and Robertshaw) owing to the ruling of the Rugby Union barring these players appearing against civilians, but a powerful side included A. Hudson, R. Gilbert, and T. Woods.

GLOUCESTER. — L. Marmont; Sergt.-Major Pugh, L. Hamblin, Lieut. MacMullen and Corpl. Bishop; A. Hall and R. C. Cook; N. Hayes, A. Redding, L. Robbins, A. Ward, J. H. Webb, J. Reynolds, L. Taylor, and J. Lee.

ROYAL NAVAL DEPOT. — Evans; Holt, Hudson, Jenkins, and Mitchell; Budd and Hathaway; Roberts, Woods, Kieft, Atkinson, Nesbit, Vineer, Luddington, and Edwards.

Play opened slightly in favour of the Depot, but a good kick by Hamblin sent play to the other end. Here the visiting forwards broke away, and Roberts receiving brought off a strong run and scored well out. The place-kick failed.

Resuming, Gloucester were forced to defend, but a long kick eased the pressure. The Naval forwards were very quick in following, and a dangerous rush caused some anxiety, but a touch-down only resulted.

Play was fast forward, and the Naval men showed to advantage in the loose. A couple of penalties to the City brought good relief, and centre play followed. Hayes, with good work in the line-out gained ground, but a wild pass spoiled the effort. Another good burst promised well, but the forwards kicked too hard, and the ball went to touch. This movement, however, landed Gloucester in their opponents' 25, and Hamblin forced a minor with a punt over the line.

A useful effort by Cook and Webb made an opening for Gloucester, but it was not accepted. By fine all-round work, however, Gloucester attacked strongly, but when near the line the ball was lost. Gloucester so far had not been doing well in the scrums, and the backs had little to do. At length, however, the ball was got away to Hall, and the latter serving Hamblin, the old City centre dodged his way through and over the line with a good try. Pugh converted.

Restarting, Marmont earned applause for a well-judged punt which found touch well inside the Depot half. The visitors regained with useful kicks, and even play followed at midfield. The Depot backs were set going by Hathaway, but Hudson's pass to Holt was ruled forward when he was well placed. The Services went very well after this, and the Gloucester line narrowly escaped. Marmont and then Hamblin brought relief with fine touch-finders, and some fast play ensued. Cook serving Hall, the latter handed to Pugh, who ran and punted over Evans' head. Racing on, the Gloucester man again secured, but he knocked on in picking up, and thus lost a certain try.

Gloucester persevered, and the Depot had a narrow escape in the corner. Pugh also missed kicking a fine penalty goal by a few feet, the ball falling just under the posts. The City were doing well now, and confined operations to their opponents' end, but at the interval there was no more scoring.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 goal
Depot 1 try

Gloucester restarted in promising fashion, and held their own extremely well in some strong forward play. Then Marmont in trying to clear from a kick down by Budd, punted straight to touch a few yards from the line. From here the Depot opened out, and Hudson lost a try owing to the transfer being forward.

The pressure was eased by Marmont with a nice touch kick, and further headway was made by aid of a grand forward burst. The ground, however, was lost owing to off-side play, and Gloucester had to save twice in quick succession. After this there was a lot of scrambling play of a keen but poor description.

The forwards on either side were prominent with good bursts, the visitors' effort leaving them close to the Gloucester line. From a scrum Budd broke away and passed to Jenkins, who slipped past the defence and scored near the posts. The goal points were added, and the Depot regained the lead.

The visitors were not long ere they added to their score. From a forward rush Marmont was hard pressed, and getting his kick charged down the ball dropped over the line, and Kieft was credited with a soft try. The place kick failed.

Subsequent play was not of a particularly bright description. Occasionally the Naval backs handled smartly, but nothing tangible resulted. The Gloucester defence was severely tried on two occasions, but it held out. Then Reynolds securing in the loose brought off a fine run and pass to Hamblin. The latter punted on, but the ball rolled to touch. Gloucester struggled hard to effect a score, and twice the Depot line only just escaped.

It was a gruelling contest for supremacy, and Gloucester more than held their own. Hall was distinguishable for a dashing burst through, but threw the ball away. Reynolds next made a big effort to cross, but he was held up amidst great excitement.

The Depot eventually relieved with loose kicking, and a high punt later took them to the other end, where from a fruitless drop at goal by Jenkins Gloucester touched down. Just before the end, from a mistake by Gloucester near the visitors' line, the Depot backs broke clean away and Mitchell scored easily, the place-kick failing.

RESULT :

Depot 1 goal, 3 tries (14 points)

Gloucester 1 goal (5 points)

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