

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1919

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CANADA

CANADIANS BEATEN IN A SCRAMBLING GAME

The first of the Easter holiday fixtures was played at Kingsholm to-day, when the Canadian Service team appeared to oppose the City.

The visitors were heavily beaten at Llanelly on Good Friday by 31 points to 6, but this was in keeping with their record, for they have to record their first win in this country.

Teams : —

GLOUCESTER. — L. Mormant; F. Webb, L. Hamblin, A. Hudson, and Sergt.-Major Pugh; W. Dix and W. D. Stone; Lieut. Voyce, A. Redding, A. Hall, H. Robbins, W. F. Ward, S. Smart, J. Harris, and F. Mansell.

CANADA. — Corpl. Holland; Lieut. McGugan, Sergt.-Major D. J. Davies, Capt. Grimmett, and Capt. Leall; Corpl. Lee and Sergt.-Major S. T. Davies; Pte. Hall, Sergt. Light, S.-Q.-M. S. Shine, Lieut. Wakefield, Sergt. Macdonald, Sergt.-Major Nesbit, Lieut. Wilson, and Q.-M.-S. Yeoman.

There was a splendid crowd when the players took the field, the Canadians having several hefty men in their ranks. The visitors started, but some of their players got in front of the ball, and a scrum was ordered at the centre. Gloucester early shone with a clever passing bout, Stone cutting through smartly and passing to Hudson, the latter feeding Webb, who just stepped into touch.

The ball got across to the other wing, where Dix broke away cleverly, and passing to Mansell, the old Gordon Leaguer opened the scoring with a try behind the posts. Hamblin kicked a goal.

Resuming, a Canadian showed up with a strong run, but with McGrugan waiting for a pass with almost a certain try in view, the former held on and was upset. The Canadians played up strongly, and made a determined effort to cross, but they were beaten off, and Dix dribbled clear away to beyond midfield.

Frees to either side were well taken, and centre play followed. Dix, Stone, Webb, and Hudson took part in a series of clever exchanges, but the final pass was ruled forward. Gloucester, however, were soon off again, and after clever combination Hudson scored a good try, and Hamblin converted.

The Canadians were prominent with a strong forward burst on the restart but Gloucester were too clever for them behind. Twice in quick succession Hall broke away finely from long line-outs, and started passing, but though some clever work was witnessed the defence was not beaten. A forward did get over once after neat exchanges, but he was called back for a knock-on.

From a drop at goal by Webb the visitors conceded a minor, and on the resumption the Canadians carried play well inside the Gloucester half. A well-meant effort to score was only warded off by determined tackling by the Gloucester backs.

Stone was mainly responsible for a change in the venue of play, and after one smart effort there was every chance of a score, but the pass was ruled forward.

Subsequent play was very scrambling, the bustling tactics of the Canadians somewhat upsetting the intentions of the home players. Both teams appeared to be affected with the hot weather, and play was devoid of incident. The Canadians confined Gloucester to their 25, but failed in all attacking movements.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 2 goals
Canada Nil

There was no improvement in the standard of play on the restart, and was principally confined to the forwards. Gloucester kept the game in their opponents' end, but there was no sting in the attack. There was one promising movement initiated by Pugh, but the right wing was hemmed in and tackled. The ball getting loose the Canadians dribbled away to the other end, where from a line-out one of the forwards secured and dashed over with a try. The place-kick failed.

Gloucester resumed, and early on Voyce distinguished himself with a dashing run, beating the full back but being tackled from behind. Next the Gloucester backs indulged in a series of exchanges, and Stone cut out a nice opening, but he held on and a lovely chance was thrown away.

The City set up another attack, but were not successful, and the Canadians kicked out of danger. Back Gloucester came by the aid of a forward burst, which caused the visitors trouble. Then a round of passing promised a certain score until Hamblin failed to take a transfer. A score, however, followed a couple of minutes later, Robbins crossing in a forward burst. Hamblin missed the goal points.

Gloucester kept up the pressure after the drop-out, the forwards doing capitally, and the backs kicking with judgment. From a line-out inside the 25 the City players carried the ball over and Smart being well up scored. No goal resulted.

Subsequent play calls for little comment. It was mostly comprised of a general scramble, with little scientific football. Gloucester ought to have added to their lead but failed at the critical moment. Then the Canadians took up the running, and a forward scored in a rush near the line. The place-kick failed.

Gloucester attacked strongly in the last few minutes, and Webb was only tackled just outside after a clever bit of back play, in which Stone and Hudson took part.

Stone was prominent again with a neat effort, and Pugh being fouled the City were awarded a penalty. Hamblin kicked a fine goal.

RESULT :

Gloucester 3 goals (1p), 2 tries (19 points)

Canada 2 tries (6 points)

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