

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1919

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. FOREST OF DEAN

HARD, KEEN GAME

SCRATCH CITY TEAM VICTORIOUS

With several of the works closed, and Mop Monday being regarded more or less as a holiday, the Committee of the Gloucester Club, with commendable enterprise, fixed up an extra match at Kingsholm. The opposition was furnished by a strong fifteen representing the Forest of Dean, the side being got together by Mr. W. Meredith, Cinderford. A. Hall and W. Stone, the Gloucester players, appeared for the Foresters on this occasion, and their defection necessitated a re-arrangement of the home team. No fewer than five forwards also cried off, and the City had some difficulty in putting a fifteen in the field. The weather was beautifully fine, but the attendance was not up to expectations.

Teams : –

Gloucester. – L. Marmont; F. Webb, A. Hudson, H. Ashmead, and S. A. Brown; W. Dix and L. Hamblin; N. Hayes, E. Curtis, F. Mansell, W. Dovey, J. Lee, A. Ward, T. Voyce, and J. H. Webb.

Forest of Dean. – T. Stone; C. Scrivens, A. Hall (captain), W. Stone, and F. Beard; I. Woolford and T. Young; A. Redding, A. Hewlett, W. Phelps, S. Weaver, T. Coombs, F. Morgan, W. Robbins, and O. Colwell.

Referee : Mr. W. Thomas.

THE GAME

Opening play was contested at mid-field till a good rush by the City forwards tested T. Stone, the visiting custodian. The latter, however, cleared well after being collared. Next the Gloucester backs opened out, but Hudson missed his pass, and nothing resulted. The Foresters cleared with a series of exchanges to the centre, but a free to Gloucester sent play back to the visitors' quarters. For an infringement, however, the City were penalised, and by the aid of the resultant kick the Foresters gained more favourable quarters.

Faulty handling lost the visitors ground, and then from a penalty Hamblin had a shot for goal, but sent wide of the posts. Play continued to favour Gloucester on the drop-out, but with possible openings bad mistakes were made in passing. Play for the most part was very scrappy, and little cohesion was shown on either side. Dovey once broke away with a sharp burst, but T. Stone effected a good tackle ten yards outside.

The Forest forwards, with good footwork, kept play pretty even for a time, but they were eventually forced on the defensive. Working well together, Gloucester got very close, and out of some loose play Dovey picked up and made a capital opening. Passing at the right moment to Hudson, the latter sent to Webb, who ran over with a good try. Hamblin landed a nice goal.

Resuming, Hall and Stone showed up well for the Foresters, and the forwards aiding the Gloucester end was visited. Good kicking brought the City out to mid-field, where Dix and Hamblin initiated a nice passing move. Hudson, however, failed to take the ball with a good chance of going through. The Foresters responded with a clever bit of combination, and Stone brought off a fine run, but he was checked in time. The effort, however, led to a sharp attack on the home line, and following a scrum close in Woolford wriggled his way over with a try. The place-kick, by W. Stone, failed. For some ten minutes prior to this score Gloucester had been short of Brown, whose place in the wing was taken by Voyce.

Play on the resumption was fast and keen, and there were a few bright incidents. Stone, intercepting a pass, got clean away, but in trying to cut Marmont slipped and fell to the ground. Immediately after the Gloucester backs passed well, and Voyce ran strongly, but was bored to touch.

The game continued to be hotly contested, and there was little in it. Hudson put Gloucester well down with a fine touch-finder, but the Foresters recovered with a strong forward burst, and the centre was once more the scene of operations. Nothing further of incident occurred before the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
GLOUCESTER 1 goal
FOREST 1 try

Brown, who had sprained the muscles of his thigh badly, was still an absentee when the game was restarted. The Foresters early gained an advantage, thanks to a splendid touch-kick by Scrivens.

In some subsequent loose play a Gloucester forward picked up when it was policy to continue footwork. The result was that he was tackled and lost the ball. Young snapped up quickly and secured a fine opening for W. Stone, who easily beat Marmont for speed and scored wide out. The same player failed with the goal-kick.

Gloucester made a brief incursion into their opponents' half, but Stone gathering was through smartly and put in a huge punt to Marmont near the line.

The City custodian was very slow in getting the ball away, and only just managed to get it to touch a few yards outside. Thus the Foresters were in a fine attacking position, but Dix, with a couple of useful kicks to touch, eased the pressure. It was only temporary, however, as following a fine round of passing by the visiting backs Scrivens raced to Marmont before being upset.

The Gloucester forwards were being beaten for possession in the scrum, and consequently the backs did not get many chances. At length Dix and Hamblin got the ball away cleverly, but a forward transfer pulled them up. However, the same pair opened out again immediately after. Hudson did not take his pass cleanly, but the ball rolled in front of him and Hamblin gathered. A nice pass to Webb followed, and when the latter was pressed he sent inside to Hudson, who ran over and behind the posts for a capital try. Hamblin added the goal points, and the score now was 10-6.

Subsequent play was mostly confined to the forwards, the Gloucester seven doing much better just now. A capital combined burst beat the opposing threes and carried play to T. Stone, but the latter was able to get out of the difficulty by touching down. There was not much to six men. Despite this big handicap close forward play[*sic*].

Young stopped a dangerous rush of the home forwards by cleverly kicking to touch, but Gloucester were able to get well inside their opponents' 25. Dix getting the ball away, Hudson got possession, and with a clever screw shot only just failed to drop a goal. The City kept on the attack on the drop-out, and Dix, with a smart effort, dropped a clever goal amidst loud cheering. This gave Gloucester a clear lead of eight points.

Continuing, the game went slightly in favour of the Forest. A long kick down to Marmont saw the home full-back in difficulties, and he was tackled in possession. In falling to the ground he injured his leg and had to be assisted off the field. Gloucester had to bring another man out of the forwards, thus reducing the pack to thirteen men[*sic*].

Despite this big handicap the City held their own fairly well. A brilliant effort by W. Stone, however, came soon afterwards. The Breamite, getting possession, dodged several opponents, slipped under Hudson's arms, and beating the full-back recorded the best try of the match. T. Stone converted.

Gloucester re-started, but directly afterwards "no-side" was called.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ... 3 goals (1d) (14 points)

FOREST 1 goal, 2 tries (11 points)

JC