

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1919

FOOTBALL

PLUCKY GLOUCESTER RESERVES

CITY GO DOWN AT NORTHAMPTON BY SEVEN POINTS

Gloucester only sent a skeleton of the regular team to Northampton to-day, for, in addition to the eight City players (Webb, Hudson, Dix, Hamblin, Voyce, Smart, Hall, and Holford) called upon for the county, Harris and Ward still found themselves unfit. Thus only a third of the usual fifteen were available. The vacancies were filled from the reserves, T. Burns (now back in the city) re-appearing after a long absence.

Northampton were strongly represented, several of their best men who have been on the injured list resuming their places. Until a fortnight ago the East Midlanders were unbeaten, but on two successive Saturdays they suffered defeat – to The Army and Blackheath, but only by narrow margins. Against such a formidable combination, therefore, the Gloucester reserves had a big task set them, but the players were confident of being able to give a good account of themselves.

The following were the teams : –

GLOUCESTER : G. Welshman; W. Washbourn, A. Lewis, T. Millington, and F. E. M. Clarke; J. Humphries and T. Burns; F. Ayliffe, J. F. Lawson, J. H. Webb, C. Mumford, F. Mansell, N. Hayes, A. Comely, and J. H. Merrett.

NORTHAMPTON : E. J. Crisp; E. C. Cook, W. H. Udy, R. C. Jones, and G. E. Kilbey; H. Robinson and F. Millward; A. G. Bull (captain), A. F. Blackiston, Richards, A. Luck, H. Griffin, S. C. Layzell, H. Gilbert, and R. Haywood.

THE GAME

Northampton left out Goosey (injured), while Gloucester played as announced. Dismal weather prevailed, and the ground was heavy. There were 3,000 spectators. Gloucester had the advantage of the breeze in the first half.

Opening play was scrappy, and an opening by Udy gained very little ground, but within five minutes, from a kick by Robinson, Northampton dashed through and Gilbert scored a try in the corner. The place-kick failed.

By judicious touch-finding and forward rushes Gloucester invaded. A mistake in defence gave the visitors a fine chance, but Crisp cleared splendidly. Millington, however, made a lovely run and sent in Ayliffe, Welshman goaling.

From their own 25 Gloucester started a passing bout, and though checked near the line Lawson was in a minute later, Welshman failing at goal.

Again Gloucester attacked strongly, and Lewis all but scored from a drop. Northampton's attempts at passing lacked finish, and Welshman's kicking drove them back. Millward broke through with a dribble to the Gloucester 25, where there was a fierce battle between the forwards. Crisp defended brilliantly. Luck failed with three penalty kicks due to Humphries infringing the rules.

Washbourn was stunned in a collision with Bull, but fortunately was speedily able to continue. Crisp and Cook drove the visitors back. The Gloucester forwards were splendid and the Northampton backs got few chances. A clever move saw Robinson score, however, Haywood missing at goal. Then Cook scored brilliantly.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Northampton	3 tries
Gloucester	1 goal, 1 try

The change in the position of the game had been very sudden, the home backs having shown their attacking power for the first time.

Gloucester on resuming went to the attack with smart touch-finding, but the Northampton forwards came away, and Welshman had been held in possession. A flying kick saved the situation.

Just after Welshman marked under difficulties, and the ball being charged down went dead. Gloucester more than held their own in hot forward tussles, and both sides had "frees" without much advantage. Cook broke through, only to pass forward. Then from clean passing Kilbey shook off a tackle and scored in the corner, Haywood failing at goal.

Northampton put in some grand handling, Udy being prominent with two great runs. Millington made a big effort to set his backs in motion without success, and Welshman cleared splendidly after rounding the Northampton forwards.

Gloucester from a line-out looked dangerous, but lost the ball, and Jones led the way back, saving. Nice Gloucester passing saw Clarke and Washbourn all but through in turn.

Welshman's fine kicking led to Gloucester making tremendous attacks, but a stern defence kept them out. Northampton forwards ran the ball dead in a rush. Cook was set going, and from his inside pass Jones scored, Crisp's kick hitting the post. Welshman was hurt, and Lawson went back.

Gloucester fought hard to the finish in a very strenuous game.

RESULT :

Northampton 5 tries (15 pts.)

Gloucester 1 goal, 1 try (8 pts.)

REMARKS

Considering their absentees Gloucester made a tremendous fight, and were not flattered by the score. Their forwards packed better than Northampton, and both sets were good in the loose.

Ayliffe, Lawson and Mumford, on the one side, and Blackiston and Bull on the other were the pick. At half Northampton held a slight advantage, Robinson being the shining light.

Millington and Washbourn were the best of the Gloucester threes, where Northampton were very strong. Both backs played well. Indeed, the defence was a feature of the play.

Welshman has bruised ribs, but the injuries are not expected to be serious.

JC