

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1920

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER'S RESERVES BEATEN AT COVENTRY

BACKS THROW AWAY CHANCES

With eight players engaged for the County at Kingsholm, and Sid Brown and J. H. Webb also unable to play, Gloucester had to take largely a Reserve team to Coventry for the first fixture with the Midland Club.

The captain and vice-captain being absent, the duties of leadership of the City team devolved on W. Washbourn. The defection of S. Brown caused a re-arrangement of the three-quarter line, T. Burns appearing at centre, and Washbourn going on the wing.

Coventry were without H. J. Pemberton, who had not yet recovered from an injury, and E. Hall, a well-known ex-Gloucester player, was expected to turn out at half-back, also a new three-quarter, D. C. Hill, a brother of the forward, A. Hill. Both are members of a Coventry football family.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Smith.

THREE-QUARTERS : W. Washbourn (capt.), T. Burns, D. J. Brown, and N. Daniell.

HALF-BACKS : W. Collins and G. Thomas.

FORWARDS : J. Harris, J. F. Lawson, T. Taylor, C. Mumford, F. Mansell, S. Bayliss, T. Richardson, and A. Wright.

COVENTRY

BACK : J. Morton.

THREE-QUARTERS : M. G. Turland, F. C. Hill, G. L. Moss, and G. Reading.

HALF-BACKS : Alf. Elton and E. Hall.

FORWARDS : E. Blowers, A. Hill, S. Bones, T. Simpson, T. Carter, W. Windridge, H. Morris, and W. Ashdown.

THE GAME

The conditions were favourable for a fast, open game. The home side included W. Windridge for Gilbert. Coventry made a promising start with a combined forward rush, but Washbourn pulled them up and started a bout of passing, only for it to break down with a forward pass after going through three hands.

After failing with a penalty kick, Coventry got the ball to midfield, and Elton giving to Moss, the latter transferred to Reading, who ran strongly and got in near the corner. No goal followed.

The home forwards were holding up well and gaining possession. The home side were nearly over again. Gloucester were taking time to settle down, and were not at all sure with their handling – most of the play being confined to their own quarters.

Gloucester made a promising movement in which Collins and Thomas were leaders, but the home collaring proved very safe. Well-judged touch kicking gave Gloucester an advantage, and they were able to get level as the result of the ball going to Daniell, who ran splendidly along the touch-line and dodged the Coventry full back for a brilliant try. Smith took the kick and drove the ball against the near post, the ball falling back into play.

Coventry replied with powerful forward work, and Morton nearly dropped a goal from a free kick, and also made a sensational run from the full back position. The Gloucester forwards by keeping the ball at their feet made way over the Coventry line, but kicked too hard.

HALF TIME SCORE :
GLOUCESTER 1 try
COVENTRY 1 try

Crossing over, Gloucester essayed more open forward play, and were smart in putting the ball down, but remarkably good tackling by the Coventry backs prevented much progress. The home pack kept together well, and rushed strongly, causing difficulty. Gloucester replied with combined work, only to be penalised in front of their posts and relief effected.

There were some merry duels between Collins and Elton at the base of the scrum, but Gloucester's most effective results came from the line-out, where they invariably gained possession. Brown and Burns made a promising movement, only for Washbourn to miss his pass when well placed.

The game was kept up at a fast rate, and the sides were well matched, but the ball was more amongst the forwards than the backs.

Coventry, from a penalty kick entrusted to Morris, had the ball rebound from the post, and the visitors failing to clear were hard pressed. Hall received the ball, and swerving sharply dashed in through a pack of opponents. The place kick was unproductive, and the game proceeded with Coventry ahead by three points.

Clever interception by Washbourn prevented further scoring and when he took the ball intended for Turland he ran to half-way before being forced into touch.

The Gloucester forwards could not get the mastery and the backs were bothered by the rapid following up of their opponents. Burns almost scored from a mark, the ball just falling short, and Coventry touched down twice in quick succession.

RESULT :
COVENTRY 2 tries (6 points)
GLOUCESTER 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

Our Coventry correspondent telegraphs : –

Gloucester lost owing to uncertain handling by their backs, who had chances enough to win. Smith played a notable game at full-back, and the most effective three-quarter was Daniell. The halves had to work hard, because the forwards on the opposing side were powerful and quick, and the Gloucester eight could not hold them. The tackling was keen throughout and no quarter given.

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