

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1920

## FOOTBALL

### CITY'S DECISIVE VICTORY

### STROUD FAIL TO SCORE

Gloucester played all reserve forwards in this match at Kingsholm this afternoon, and in addition Dix and Millington had also to be replaced at half-back and centre three-quarter respectively. The regular front were all at Camborne with the County team, seven being actually in the side, and J. H. Webb making the journey as reserve. J. F. Lawson was invited in place of Webb, but had to decline owing to an injured arm. The attendance was small.

Teams : –

#### GLOUCESTER

BACK : T. Burns.

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

HALF-BACKS : W. Collins and A. Robbins.

FORWARDS : E. Curtis, C. Mumford, F. Mansell, S. Bayliss, T. Taylor, A. Wright, E. Richardson, and T. Bridges.

#### STROUD

BACK : Joe Blanch.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. Chatwood, J. C. K. Woodall, W. Jones, and W. J. Gibbons.

HALF-BACKS : J. Cratchley (capt.) and C. Watkins.

FORWARDS : B. Olive, W. Powell, A. B. Gardiner, F. Davis, A. E. Davis, F. Stinchcombe, H. Gould, and T. Smith.

Referee : Mr. A. James.

## THE GAME

Stroud kicked off, and a misfield let them into the home territory, an advantage which was followed up by an advance to the Gloucester 25. Here the Stroud threes got the ball and essayed a passing movement, but they made a muddle of the passing, and Washbourn broke in and dribbled to Blanch. He over-ran the ball, and Blanch stopped what was quite a fair chance.

Gloucester now moved up and Burns was noticeable in a couple of good kicks to touch. From a scrum in front of goal the Gloucester threes obtained possession, and the ball travelled nicely to Daniell, but the wing man was not given enough room, and he was brought down. A smart pass out to Robbins was missed, and the Stroud forwards burst through with a useful dribble, but Burns pulled them up. A moment later Robbins rectified his error with a smart run and punt to touch in the corner, following which a melee took place on the line, Daniell going over with a try which Burns failed to improve upon.

Getting more of the ball, the home threes got going again, and the ball was promptly handed to Sid Brown, who ran down the line and kicked over the heads of the opposition, but Blanch got back and found touch nicely. The Gothamites were making periodic dashes into the City's half, but Burns was safe, and put in several pretty runs and kicks.

The next score came to Daniell, who picked up in the loose when near mid-field and giving the dummy to a couple of the visitors made for the line at top speed, shaking off his pursuers and grounding in a position from which Burns easily converted.

Another likely move by the City backs ended in Washbourn, who held on a little too long, being pulled down. Then Burns tried a little run on his own but was collared. His resource, however, was excellent and he passed out to Robbins who set the threes going, the movement coming to grief.

The home team continued their pressure, and after some dashing work in the loose Collins went over with a try. Burns' kick went astray.

Following this fresh reverse the Stroud men made a big effort to open their account and penetrated the Gloucester 25, but they could not force a score. Then relief came to the home side, who first took play to the centre, and then Mansell, picking up from a line out, gave to Wright, who raced away and romped over without serious opposition. Burns' attempt to goal was a poor one.

Blanch was now in the picture with several good saves, but although he kicked with splendid length he rarely found touch. By using their feet freely the Gothamites kept play well up, but they made few attempts at passing, their handling being extremely poor. The home pack were not getting all the ball, and several times Stroud heeled well, but their efforts were wasted by the backs.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

GLOUCESTER ..... 1 goal 3 tries

STROUD ..... Nil

Stroud had a big task in front of them, but they advanced to the attack on the resumption, and from a scrum Watkins gave to Cratchley, who raced away and sent to touch in the City 25, where the game was keenly contested until a mark by one of the Gloucester men eased the pressure.

Then the City woke up but Stroud kept at it, Burns being called upon several times. Obvious off-side play by a Stroud man put the visitors back, but Cratchley with another smart run and punt to touch helped to maintain the visitors' territorial gain. Then the home forwards worked down the line to the Stroud 25, where Brown secured and kicked over the line, but Gibbons fielded and running round found touch nicely.

The City were unable to score, although they kept well down for a time, and eventually an exchange of kicks and a dribble by the Stroud forwards carried play to mid-field again.

Blanch was conspicuous in stopping a forward rush by Gloucester, and after evading the attackers he put in a long punt, which Burns fielded and sent to touch. The game, which had developed into a kicking match, suddenly became very strenuous, the length of the field being traversed in a long series of passes, tackles, and counter-passes, which ended in a knock-on in the Stroud 25.

Then some better football was seen, the Gloucester pack heeling nicely and the threes handling in characteristic style, D. Brown going over in a position from which Burns had no difficulty in adding the necessary points.

Following the re-start there was another exciting attack by Gloucester, the threes handling first, and the movement being taken up by the forwards, Mumford and Bridges figuring. The last-named player gave an obviously forward pass to Collins, but this escaped the referee and Collins raced round behind the posts. Burns made no mistake and kicked his third goal.

Then there was a Stroud dash, one of their best exhibitions of passing breaking down in the corner, where Chatwood missed a difficult transfer. In no way disheartened, Stroud continued to attack, and it looked very much as though they might score but Burns secured from a scrum on the line and put in a punt which found Blanch unprepared and rolled to touch.

The Gothamites still pressed, and Burns was forced to concede a minor. From the resultant play Stroud were penalised for off-side play, but the homesters gained little advantage and play was still confined to their territory.

Time after time chances came to Stroud, but although they penned the homesters tightly in they lacked scoring ability.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER .... 3 goals 3 tries (24 pts.)  
STROUD ..... Nil

## REMARKS

It was only in the last quarter of an hour that the Gothamites put up anything of a fight, and then they lacked the finish necessary to open their account. All through their forwards had done very well, having a share of the heeling in the scrums and putting in some dashing work in the loose.

The halves were not at all bad, but in the three-quarter line lay the weakness of the side. Chatwood and Gibbons on the wings were entirely lacking in dash, and in defence they were feeble. Jones and Woodall were a little better, but the whole line made a very third-rate combination. Joe Blanch was very severely tested all through the game and generally showed up very well. He kicks a splendid length, but seems quite unable to find touch, with the result that most of his punts were fielded and he failed to gain ground. He tackled well, however, and was not afraid to go down at the ball.

As was expected, the light reserve pack fielded by the City were unable to impose their will at all times, but they worked well together, and compared favourably with the Stroud pack in the open. Collins and Robbins played a smart game, and during the greater part of the match the threes did pretty much as they liked.

Daniell's second try was the tit-bit of the afternoon, but although all the threes played well, there was nothing extraordinary in their exhibition. Burns played a very useful and more vigorous game.

Gloucester well deserved their win, but the visitors were unlucky not to score in the last quarter of an hour.