

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1924

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD

CITY WIN STRENUOUS GAME BY A POINT

CINDERFORD THE BETTER SIDE

After the lapse of a season, fixtures were renewed between Gloucester and Cinderford, and the teams appeared at Kingsholm to-day for the opening match. Gloucester had several changes from the side defeated at Bath on Saturday, Bayliss and Seabrook being absent forward. Millington played full-back in place of Williams, and Loveridge came in at three-quarter. Cinderford had Young, M. Meek, and Mountford away. The weather was fine, but the match failed to attract the old-time attendance, and the attendance was not more than 2,000.

Teams :

GLOUCESTER

BACK : T. Millington.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. Crowther, R. N. Loveridge, G. Thomas, and S. Brown (captain).

HALF-BACKS : W. Collins and Dr. Taylor.

FORWARDS : E. Triggs-Herbert, F. Ayliffe, F. Ford, W. Print, H. Collier, A. Hall, J. Merry, and W. Hemmings.

CINDERFORD

BACK : W. T. Penn.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. Howes, H. E. Murray-Davey, G. P. Murray-Davey, and W. Thomas.

HALF-BACKS : R. Meek and R. Milliner (captain).

FORWARDS : S. Weaver, A. R. Macdonald, S. Duberley, F. Coombes, F. Carpenter, W. Stubbs, T. Coombes, and E. Beard.

Referee : Mr. Barry (Cardiff).

THE GAME

Ayliffe kicked off for Gloucester, but the ball going to touch, a scrum was ordered at the centre. Early on Crowther, receiving from Brown, dodged inside the field and got right across to the other wing, where he punted and tried hard to put his men on side, but he failed, and Gloucester were penalised.

The City attacked resolutely, but were kept out. Then a penalty was given against Milliner, but Millington's shot went wide to Thomas, who found touch nicely with his return. Gloucester made headway through G. Thomas, and Penn fumbling, Loveridge tackled him in possession. Here Cinderford were again penalised, and Taylor punted high and across, but nothing resulted.

Cinderford cleared from a dangerous position, and Taylor and Brown failing to pick up, the visitors rushed to the home end for the first time. Cinderford, by the aid of Milliner, Meek, and Thomas, got closer, and a penalty did not relieve, as a splendid return was made to the kick. Cinderford, in a favourable position, struggled hard for a score, and the ball coming out to Milliner, the captain fed R. MEEK, who with a clever left-foot kick dropped a neat goal, amidst the cheers of the Cinderford supporters, who were in strong force.

Gloucester resumed, and a good forward rush looked promising, but the movement was eventually checked, and big kicking by Cinderford took play to the home half. Gloucester fumbled badly again with the ball, and lost ground, but Ford with a big kick, and the forwards, retrieved the situation.

The City were being beaten in the tight scrums, and Collins saw little of the ball. The Cinderford forwards, too, were very quick in breaking up and tackling soundly. A good effort by Taylor placed Gloucester well down, but they quickly lost the position. Meek cut through cleverly and passed to G. Murray-Davey, who dashed ahead and kicked past Millington, but knocked on in trying to gather.

From a penalty G. Murray-Davey made a splendid attempt to land a goal, the ball falling a few feet short of the cross-bar. Cinderford were just now all over the City, and came near scoring on two occasions.

Gloucester worked out to the 25, where Milliner and Meek combined beautifully, and only failure by G. Murray-Davey to take the ball prevented a try, the ball going to touch-in-goal. From the drop out Cinderford returned to the attack, and a forward burst carried them down to Millington. The latter checked, but the ball coming to Meek, the latter shaped for another drop at goal. But this time it was feeble effort, and Gloucester luckily cleared.

The relief was only temporary, for the Cinderford forwards again swept the opposition aside, and the Gloucester defence had a very hot time. Play just now was all forward, and in favour of Cinderford, who were beating the home pack in all departments. A punt out to touch brought the City out a few yards, but Meek dodged back cleverly and fed Milliner, who with colleagues well placed attempted a drop at goal, but failed to raise the ball.

The Gloucester backs were rarely in evidence owing to the forwards being over-run, and the few occasions they did handle there was no real sting or cleverness in the movements.

Meek was frequently doing good work for the visitors, but eventually Taylor broke away and fed Thomas, who sent to Loveridge. The latter ran to Penn and cross-kicked to the line. AYLIFFE came up strong, and gathering nicely, scored a good try. Millington took the place-kick, and with a neat shot sent the ball between the posts, giving the City a point lead.

Soon after the interval was taken.

HALF-TIME :

 GLOUCESTER 1 goal
 CINDERFORD 1 goal (d)

Cinderford had certainly had the better of the game in the first half, and were unlucky in being a point down. Gloucester's form was disappointing, the forwards for the most part being beaten, and the backs rarely being seen to any advantage.

Cinderford restarted, and again there was a call back to the centre for a scrum owing to visiting players being in front of the ball when it was kicked. Play opened with strong forward bursts on either side, Cinderford gaining the advantage. From the home 25 Taylor dashed straight up the field, giving the "dummy" nicely, but getting clear, he essayed a long pass out, and Crowther could not do anything.

A penalty against the visitors saw Taylor find touch 30 yards up the field, giving Gloucester a footing in their opponents' half. Here the game was strenuously contested between the forwards until a Gloucester man opened out from the loose. Taylor, Thomas, and Brown in turn handled, but the captain cut inside, and though beating a couple of men he was upset without gaining any ground.

Cinderford came right away with a passing run, Meek being to the fore, and G. Murray-Davey punting to Millington, who only got the ball to touch in time. A minute later Milliner and Meek cut out a nice opening, but the ball was lost on the line, and only a touch-down was given.

Cinderford on the drop-out put in a strong attack on the right, but Millington relieved finely. Next Brown and another brought off a good combined effort, and Ford continued, being finally pushed to touch inside the 25.

Gloucester made strenuous efforts to add to their score, but they were met with a sterling defence. Taylor with a determined dash was nearly through once, and later he came into the picture again with a fine effort. He passed to Thomas with a certain try in view, but the latter missed the ball. Taylor, however, gathered again, and getting almost to the line threw it to HEMMINGS, who scored. Millington failed at goal.

Cinderford resumed, and almost immediately added to their lead[*sic*] with a penalty goal by C. Murray-Davey with a magnificent kick. With only a point separating the teams, ensuing play was vigorous in the extreme. Cinderford gained the upper hand in the forwards, and Meek slipped through and fed his backs, but a knock-on ensued with a possible opening.

A penalty against Cinderford was taken by Ayliffe, who got in a splendid touch-finder some 40 yards up the field, but Milliner recovered nicely, and operations were again contested in the City half. It was hot and close work with Cinderford putting on extreme pressure. A clever run by E. Murray-Davey and pass to Meek gave Cinderford a splendid opening, but at the critical moment a transfer was knocked on and a golden opportunity was lost.

Gloucester had an anxious moment a minute later, Millington saving with several forwards on top of him close in. Useful kicks brought the necessary relief, and centre play followed for a time.

Gloucester getting the ball out, Taylor sent Brown away, and the captain yielded to Crowther. The latter was upset, but re-passed to Brown, who kicked across. There was an open goal line, but Ford failed to gather and so lost a fine opening. Soon after the end came, Gloucester winning by a single point.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER1 goal, 1 try (8 pts.)
CINDERFORD 2 goals (1d, 1p) (7 pts.)