

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1907

## TO-DAY'S MATCHES

GLOUCESTER v. LEICESTER

### WEAKENED CITY TEAM WELL BEATEN

Gloucester visited the Midlands to-day, when they met the conquerors of Swansea at Leicester. The City were severely handicapped in the back division, "Whacker" Smith being the only three-quarter of the regular line available. Frank Smith sustained a badly-strained shoulder in the match with Lydney, Hubert Smith is on the sick list, and Hudson had to cry off on Friday evening owing to being unable to get away from business. The absence of these three players sadly weakened the rear division, whilst the front rank suffered owing to Holder having to be withdrawn from the pack to fill one of the vacancies behind. Leicester selected a powerful side to meet their opponents from the West. Gloucester usually put up a good fight against the Midlanders at Leicester, but their chances of success on this occasion were not very bright. The teams were : —

GLOUCESTER	Positions	LEICESTER
A. Wood	Backs	G. H. Hayward
F. Bloxsome	Three-Quarter	A. F. Scott
C. Smith	Backs	K. B. Wood
J. Stephens	"	J. Jackson
W. Holder	"	F. J. Jackett
D. R. Gent (capt.)	Half-Backs	J. R. Watson
A. Hall	"	G. W. Wood
W. Johns	"	R. F. Russell (capt.)
B. Parham	Forwards	S. Matthews
G. Matthews	"	S. Penny
H. Collins	"	A. Goodrich
G. Vears	"	A. J. Hobbs
F. Pegler	"	T. W. Smith
A. Hawker	"	F. Jackson
A. Purton	"	C. Stafford

Referee : Mr. Gil Evans (Midland Counties)

The afternoon was dull and there was a drizzling rain, but the playing pitch appeared in fair condition. Gloucester won the toss, and Leicester started before 5,000 spectators. From Purton's reply Russell found touch inside the Gloucester 25. Wood and Gent found relief with good kicks, and centre play followed.

Leicester tried passing, but it broke down, and Stephens dribbled through to Hayward, who gathered and returned finely. Leicester were penalised for off-side, and Wood found touch a few yards from the home line. From the throw out Collins secured and passed out, but Smith missed fielding, Holder picked up and tried a drop for goal, but failed to raise the ball, a touchdown resulting.

Following the drop-out Gloucester pressed, Wood keeping the game in his opponents' end with some magnificent kicking. Clever work by the Leicester half-backs, and close following up by the forwards, led to a sharp attack on the Gloucester line, but Wood saved grandly. Interception by Holder enabled Gloucester to reach the centre, where some hot work was witnessed. Brilliant passing and inter-passing between the Leicester halves gained considerable ground, but Watson held on too long.

Next Hall ran back for Gloucester, but passed forward. The game was exceptionally fast in the visitors' half until Parham broke away and kicked, but an opponent marked. Leicester reached Gloucester's lines by the aid of kicks, and a passing bout looked promising. Jackett, however, was smothered by Smith and Bloxsome. The City relieved by the aid of a penalty, but Leicester returned to the attack, and following a strong forward burst Jackson was only held up outside. From the succeeding scrum G. Wood gathered and just managed to place the ball over the line. Russell failed at goal.

Resuming, operations were confined to the Gloucester half, but play was very scrambling. The City forwards, Johns, Pegler, and Collins leading, headed a fine rush past Hayward, but Jackett go back and sent to touch.

Leicester made further ground, thanks to Scott, and then the Gloucester backs got away, Holder reaching the centre before being upset. The Midlanders rushed away from a line-out and, following some exchanges Scott sprinted over in good style. The place-kick failed.

Gloucester played up strongly on the restart, Wood doing grand work. From a passing bout the City backs got away nicely, but Bloxsome could not get through, and only kicked to touch-in-goal. Shortly afterwards Jackett saved for Leicester when matters looked dangerous.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Leicester ..... 2 tries  
Gloucester ..... Nil

Parham restarted for Gloucester, Jackett finding touch inside the visitors' 25 with a magnificent return. Leicester early commenced to attack, but Scott was well tackled by Smith and Stephens. A couple of minutes later the home backs were again in possession, and K. Wood with a lovely effort clean beat the defence and scored near the posts. Russell converted, giving Leicester a substantial lead.

Parham resumed, and a kicking duel ended in favour of Jackett. The Leicester backs were soon off again, and Scott raced down to A. Wood only to be upset with a superb tackle, both players being temporarily laid out.

Continuing, Leicester had most of the game, and weak play by Hall nearly let Wood in. Gloucester eased the pressure slightly, but the Midlanders came back with grand passing. Jackett punted over the line, but Hall saved beautifully, and punted clear. Leicester, however, were not to be denied, for after a series of beautiful exchanges Scott sprinted down touch and over the line in fine style. No goal resulted.

Play on resumption was more even, Hawker putting in a couple of big punts. The Leicester forwards were monopolising the ball in the scrums, and the backs handled smartly.

Gloucester eventually gained the upper hand, and following some passing, Smith broke through nicely. He was, however, hauled down by Jackett, and lost the ball. In a scramble Hayward got a kick charged down, and Gloucester came near scoring, having hard lines again a moment later. The City confined the game to their opponents' end for a few minutes, but eventually Scott changed the venue with a clever kick. The Leicester forwards improved the position, and then, in some loose play, Wood gathered and, with a fine individual effort, beat the opposition and scored. Russell failed at goal.

Despite the adverse score against them Gloucester played up pluckily, and kept things moving. Just inside their own half Leicester started passing, but Collins intercepted, and after Gent had handled Purton galloped over and scored a good try, Wood converting.

Gloucester had the better of subsequent exchanges, and the Leicester lines had a narrow escape. Useful kicks benefited the home team, but Wood sent them back. Taking a penalty for Gloucester, Wood punted high, and the City forwards got well under, but knocked on as they were sweeping over the line.

An anxious time ensued for Leicester, but Jackett brought a clearance with a good touch-finder. Play to the end was well-contested, but nothing further was done in the way of scoring.

#### RESULT :

Leicester ..... 1 goal 4 tries (17 points)

Gloucester ..... 1 goal (5 points)

#### REMARKS

Leicester thoroughly deserved their brilliant victory, for all-round they were the superior team. Gloucester played a plucky game throughout, the forwards making a good stand against the powerful and dashing Leicester pack. Collins, Johns, Parham, and Hawker were often distinguished for individual efforts.

Outside the scrum Leicester held a big advantage in pace and combination. Their halves, constantly served by the forwards, opened up the game in good style, and the three-quarters ran and passed brilliantly.

The visitors did great things in defence at times, but they could not hold out altogether against the repeated attacks. Gent, Hall, Smith, and Holder worked hard, but the feature of the Gloucester play was the magnificent display of Wood at full-back. The Gloucesterian had one of the hottest afternoons in his experience, but he came through the trying ordeal in splendid style. His kicking at all times was great, and the amount of defensive work he was called upon to do was enormous.

For Leicester, the Brothers Wood were extremely smart, and Scott on the right wing showed splendid pace and dash in attack. Jakkett did powerful work at three-quarter.

JC