

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1907

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. PLYMOUTH

For this return match at Kingsholm the weather was again unfavourable, and the attendance in consequence suffered. Gloucester were short of "Whacker" Smith and Matthews, whilst the visitors had Peters, Mills, and De Schmidt away. A drizzling rain fell when, at 3.35, the teams took the field as follows : –

Gloucester. – A. Wood, back; F. Smith, A. Hudson, H. Smith, and F. Bloxsome, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent and J. Stephens, half-backs; B. Parham, W. Johns, G. Vears, W. Holder, A. Purton, F. Pegler, A. Hawker, and H. Collins, forwards.

Plymouth. – Poole, back; Conybeare, Hosking, Beaton, and C. J. Limpenny, three-quarter backs; Jones and Richards, half-backs; Knight (captain), Robinson, Leonard, Willcocks, Sandford, Wheatley, Begbie, and Edwards, forwards.

Referee : Mr. G. Thomas (Bristol).

THE GAME

Gloucester won the toss, and Plymouth kicked off against a strong wind. Holder got in a big return to Poole, who found touch at the centre. Limpenny early marked, and with his kick he found touch nicely inside the home half. In some loose play the ball was sent to Hudson, who got in a clever screw kick, but Sandford gathered and returned well. Gloucester heeled from the subsequent scrum, and the ball went through all the backs' hands, but Hudson threw forward to F. Smith. A similar mistake occurred a minute later when the Gloucester right wing was well placed.

Wood was prominent with a couple of fine punts to touch, and then the home backs engaged in a brilliant round of passing. H. Smith cut through nicely, but was upset by the foot, and in falling the ball rolled away. Poole secured, but Parham charged down his kick in fine style, though he got a nasty one on the knee for his pains. The Gloucester forwards were doing well in the scrums, but H. Smith knocked on once from Stephens, and a promising combined movement was checked. Plymouth now tried some exchanges, Beaton punting down, only to see Bloxsome make his mark. Wood got in a fine kick, but a clever burst by the visiting forwards, headed by Wheatley, took a lot of stopping.

A fumble by Limpenny from a flying kick by Wood was taken advantage of by the Gloucester forwards, and Parham made a spirited run before being hauled down. Then Gent whipped out the ball cleverly from a scrumage, and H. Smith cut out a nice opening for Hudson. Beaton, however, upset the International with a score in sight.

Scrambling play followed, ending in F. Smith kicking over the line for a minor. Purton received the drop-out and started a bout of passing, but the exchanges went astray, and Plymouth rushed out. With subsequent kicks the visitors reached the Gloucester half where operations were fought out. The City forwards wheeled nicely, but lost the ball, and no ground was gained.

From a line-out Purton initiated a series of passes, and Johns made headway. Bloxsome continued the movement with a cross-kick, but Hosking saved nicely. With dashing footwork Plymouth changed the venue, and Wood stopped a dangerous movement with a daring save. Gloucester relieved with a useful kick, which was well followed up by F. Smith, a return being stopped. The ball came across to the Gloucester left wing, where Wood was again hotly pressed. The Devonians, carrying the scrums, went close for a score, Richards being called back for some infringement. From the next scrum, however, Richards beat the home defence and scored in the corner. Poole made a good attempt at goal.

Gloucester re-started, and even play followed at the centre. The City half-backs cleared from the scrum well, but H. Smith missed his pass badly. Hudson recovered and got in a good kick to Poole, who returned to Wood. The latter cross-kicked with splendid judgment, and Bloxsome gathered, but was floored. He, however, managed to transfer to Hawker, who ran to the line and handed to Johns, who scored amidst cheers. Wood landed a fine goal.

Holder replied finely to the drop out, and ensuing play was fought out at midfield. At length the home three-quarters got away with a nice bout, but F. Smith's pass was too high and was missed. Stephens, however, kicked through, and the ball going over the line, another minor resulted.

On the game being continued Richards was penalised for picking out of a scrum. Wood had a shot for goal from the centre, but the ball fell short. Poole was next tackled in possession from a big kick by Wood, but handed back to Hosking, who sent to touch. Gloucester returned with a hot attack, through Stephens, but they were beaten off, and Plymouth subsequently improved their position.

Centre play followed, but several mistakes were witnessed owing to the slippery state of the ball. The Plymouth forwards wheeled smartly several times, but they did not always command the ball, and Gloucester profited.

The City backs were set moving by Gent, but Hudson's pass was intercepted by Richards, who ran to Wood and passed. Bloxsome, however, brought off a good tackle, and Wood distinguished himself similarly a few seconds later. Gloucester cleared from a dangerous position, and reached the centre, where play was being contested at the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 goal
Plymouth	1 try

Parham resumed, the reply going to touch at the half-way line. Gloucester heeled from the first scrum, and Stephens took Gent's pass beautifully and handed to H. Smith. The centre, however, threw wildly, and the ball rolled to touch.

Wheatley and Holder were hereabouts conspicuous for their respective sides, and then the Gloucester backs were sent away by Gent. Again, however, H. Smith failed to take the ball with a possible opening.

After Bloxsome had had a dash for the line Plymouth cleared by the aid of a kick, and later the visitors worked to their opponents' end. Richards fed Limpenny in a good position, and the latter dropped for goal, but the attempt failed, a minor resulting. Limpenny replied to the kick out with a clever touch-finder, and Gloucester found themselves placed on the defence. Gent brought relief, and later the City captain was again in position to stop the visitors.

Following some loose play a home player picked up and H. Smith kicked down. Bloxsome raced down and gathered, but he was held, and though managing to pass F. Smith could not take the ball. Stephens and F. Smith took part in some neat combination, but the wing man could not break through, though he made two gallant attempts.

Mistakes by Gloucester lost the City ground, and Plymouth worked with tremendous energy to gain the lead. Jones narrowly missed dropping a goal, and Wood running back over the line, a scrum was ordered five yards out. Gloucester cleared from this dangerous position, but Plymouth returned to the attack with a fine round of passing, only deadly tackling saving a try.

A wild pass by Hosking enabled Gloucester to get out, H. Smith just failing to field with only Poole in front. The Gloucester forwards, carrying a scrum in fine style, were well stopped by Sandford and Wheatley. Both teams worked with tremendous determination, and the tackling was very keen.

In the home half, Gent sent out a wide pass, which was fielded by F. Smith. The latter transferred to Hudson, who put in a short punt, and, following up, regained possession. Only Poole barred the Gloucesterian's progress, and Hudson, with a fine effort, beat the custodian and finished up a grand effort by scoring near the posts. There was an appeal for touch against Hudson, but it was disallowed, and Wood placed Gloucester seven points ahead by landing the goal.

Plymouth re-started, Pegler returning nicely. The home forwards following up tackled Pool, and Gloucester were again dangerous. Dashing work by Johns was heartily applauded, and the City kept on the aggressive. Plymouth eventually changed the venue, and the game was hotly contested at midfield. Then a big kick by a visitor caused Wood to concede a minor.

On the resumption Holder showed up with a magnificent burst from a throw out, but he lost the ball as he was about to kick. Richards, the Plymouth scrum half, who was continually off-side, caused his side to be penalised several times, and Wood, with some fine kicks always made ground.

Plymouth, by good forward work, took up the running, and play was fought out in the home quarter. For an off-side tackle, Gloucester were penalised, but Poole's kick was charged down. Jones, however, fielded and raced away down touch, only to be beautifully tackled by Bloxsome.

Plymouth continued to have the better of the exchanges, until the Gloucester backs brought off some good running and passing. Hudson made a great effort and transfer to H. Smith, who was thrown to touch a yard or two outside. Gloucester made a big effort to score from this position, but the defence was too good.

Richards was instrumental in bringing relief for Plymouth, who played up very determinedly. The Gloucester line was subjected to a sharp attack, but Wood proved equal to all emergencies. In their own 25 Gloucester commenced passing, and Gent, Stephens, Hudson, Wood, and H. Smith handled.

The latter ran to Poole, when he sent to Bloxsome. The pass was undoubtedly forward, but it went unnoticed by the referee, and Bloxsome running hard got the ball down safely over the line. Wood failed at the place kick, and the end was immediately sounded.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 goals 1 try (13 points)
Plymouth 1 try (3 points)

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