

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1907

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. PERCY PARK

NORTHUMBERLAND CUP-HOLDERS AT KINGSHOLM

RUNAWAY VICTORY FOR THE CITY

For this match at Kingsholm Gloucester were weakly represented, the absentees including Wood, Hudson, Collins, Matthews, and C. Smith. The visitors, who recently won the Northumberland Senior Cup, are on tour, and play Bristol on Monday. An early start was made, to allow the Percy Park men to get on to Bristol. There was only a moderate attendance of spectators when the game started at 3.15, the teams being : —

Gloucester. — F. Perry, back; F. Smith, H. Smith, T. West, and F. Bloxsome, three-quarter backs; D. R. gent and J. Stephens, half-backs; B. Parham, W. Johns, A. Purton, F. Pegler, W. Holder, G. Vears, A. Hawker, and D. Hollands, forwards.

Percy Park. — Harrison. back; Dawe, Scott, Purvis, and Marshall, three-quarter backs; J. and C. Russell, half-backs; Steadman, Hardwick, Lockerby, Gibson, Hogg, Fairey, Campbell, and White, forwards.

THE GAME

Gloucester won the toss, and Gent deputed the visitors to kick off with the sun in their faces. Hawker returned with a big punt, and Harrison found touch inside his own half. From a line-out Percy Park tried to open out, but the ball went astray, and the Gloucester forwards broke away. Hawker picked up and broke through the opposition, finally passing to West, who gathered and scored under the posts in the first two minutes. Holder converted.

Following the restart, Frank Smith showed up with a clever bit of work, but the ball went to touch when there was a clear opening. Stephens was prominent with a tricky run and pass, but the transfer was ruled forward. Gloucester, however, went strong for the line in a forward rush, but off-side lost a good opportunity. Hawker, securing from a line-out, started a bout of passing, but Stephens held on too long. More passing by Gloucester looked promising, but a knock-on spoiled the movement. Then Holder, from a mark by H. Smith, tried a drop for goal, but the shot was a poor one.

Resuming, West brought off a pretty run through the thick of his opponents, but his pass went forward with a good chance of scoring. A minute later Hawker distinguished himself with another good effort, but lost a fine chance by throwing forward. Play was wholly confined to the Park 25, but mistakes in handling by the home men were frequent, and one or two opportunities went begging. Gent and Stephens combined in some clever work down touch, but the visitors just managed to save. Following a high kick by Hollands, the Gloucester forwards were nicely placed for a score, but Johns failed to gather. The Park were now hotly pressed, and fumbling on the line led to Gent scoring a smart try. Purton failed at goal.

The drop-out brought no relief to the Northerners, and Gloucester were soon busily engaged on their opponents' line. The Park relieved with a loose rush, but West picking up started F. Smith, who dodged Dawe and passed inside. A try appeared certain, but the Park luckily saved. By the aid of kicks the visitors cleared from a dangerous position, and a movement, started in their half, did not end till the Gloucester 25 was reached. Parham came away with an individual dribble, but he finally sent straight into the hands of Harrison, who returned well. The Park forwards heeling, the Brothers Russell opened out, but Bloxsome intercepted and brought off a fine run. He beat the full back, but was subsequently rushed to touch a few yards from the line. From the ensuing line-out Bloxsome received and crossed with a corner try. Perry made a good attempt to convert.

The Park dropped out, and the game was immediately taken to their quarters. Gent, getting the ball away from a scrum, Stephens fed H. Smith, who went clean through the defence to the full back, when he handed to West, for the ex-Bathonian to run behind the posts with the fourth try. Perry added the extra points, and Gloucester had the substantial lead of 16 points after twenty minutes' play.

Percy Park played up pluckily on the resumption, and C. Russell was nearly through after a capital run. Operations were confined to the home 25 for a few minutes, but the visitors never looked like scoring. In the Gloucester half Gent initiated a nice movement, which was carried on by Stephens, H. Smith, and West. The latter received on the centre line, and sprinting hard he beat Harrison and finished up a grand run by touching down behind the posts. Perry easily converted. Following the restart Percy Park had a dash for the line, and eventually forced Perry to concede a minor. Half-time was then called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

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| Gloucester | 3 goals, 2 tries |
| Percy Park | Nil |

Parham re-started, and early on a visitor, with a big kick, sent the ball over the Gloucester line for a minor. Following the drop-out, the Gloucester backs shone in a brilliant round of passing, but H. Smith was tackled just in time. The visitors quickly came away, and C. Russell robbing Gent at the scrum ran and passed to a confrere, who was pushed to touch ten yards outside. Scrambling play ensued in the home half, ending in F. Smith being collared and losing the ball. A visitor picked up and had an open field, but he passed, and a tackle followed close to the line. From the ensuing scrum the Park forwards rushed over, and a try was credited to Gibson, the same player converting.

Resuming, the Park backs indulged in some neat passing, but they were stopped on the 25 line. Johns and H. Smith subsequently broke away, and the ball getting into the open Holder fielded, and with a strong run, in the course of which he handed off Harrison, ran round and behind the posts. Perry converted.

On the re-start Johns was conspicuous with some good work, which led to a sharp attack on the Park line. Stephens and then West were nearly over, both players being only held up on the line. Immediately after H. Smith had a drop for goal, which only just failed.

By the aid of a free the Northerners brought the game to more favourable quarters. Taking advantage of a mistake by the home backs, the Park rushed down to Perry, who was pulled down in trying to clear.

The visitors had a fine chance of adding to their score, but they failed to accept, and Gent punted out. West followed up and handed to Frank Smith, who eluded the opposition very cleverly and scored a splendid try in a good position, which Perry again converted.

Holder received the ball from the re-start, but was collared. Gent, however, was handy, and with a neat punt sent the game to mid-field. Here Stephens gathered the ball nicely out of some loose play, and after working out an opening transferred to West. The latter ran well, and sending to H. Smith another try was recorded. Perry failed at goal.

From the drop-out the Park visited the Gloucester end, and the home lines had a narrow escape. The City soon worked out, Holder and Johns being to the fore. On the 25 line Stephens snapped up the ball, and with a cork-screw run completely beat the defence and notched a try behind the posts. Perry converted.

In subsequent play Gloucester ran over their opponents, the City backs bringing off some lovely passing. A forward transfer by West lost one easy chance, but soon afterwards the same player, receiving from Stephens, scored after a pretty effort. The goal-kick was successful.

Despite the heavy score piled up against them the Park came up pluckily for the re-start. After a brief spell of even play Gent set Stephens moving, but the latter's pass was intercepted by an opponent, who only had Perry to beat. The Second teamer, however, waited for his man, and effected a good tackle.

In the Gloucester 25 Gent and Stephens opened out, and the latter sent a sharp transfer to Hubert Smith, who accepted with full speed on. Harrison was cleverly evaded by the Gloucester centre, and Smith concluded a run of three-parts the length of the ground by scoring in a favourable position. Perry landed his seventh goal, and the game soon afterwards ended.

RESULT :

Gloucester 8 goals, 3 tries (49 points)
Percy Park 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS

The heavy scoring is a sufficient indication of the one-sided character of the game. The Northumberland cup holders, except for a few spasmodic bursts, were hopelessly outclassed, and the Gloucester backs ran through the opposition at will. The visitors contained one or two useful forwards, and C. Russell did good work at half, but as a combination they proved a very moderate lot indeed.

The Gloucester forwards had a good deal of the ball to-day, and with Gent and Stephens in their happiest mood some pretty back play was witnessed. With the City men so clearly in the ascendant a number of liberties were taken, but it was not always that the "experiments" came off. Mistakes now and again were bound to occur, and the Park more than once profited.

West. the ex-Bath three-quarter (who is working in Gloucester) made a highly satisfactory debut in the City ranks. Such a game was not a severe test, but West showed pace and cleverness in attack, and had the distinction of scoring four tries.

Hubert Smith played a smart game all through, and the wings – Frank Smith and Bloxsome – both distinguished themselves. Perry, who deputised Wood, performed creditably as custodian, and his goal-kicking record – seven out of nine attempts – was a praiseworthy one.

Against Cinderford on Monday, Gent will be an absentee, the captain being out of Gloucester, but Hudson hopes to be fit.

GLOUCESTER A v. BREAM

Played at Bream.

RESULT :

Bream 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)

Gloucester A Nil

JC