

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 1907

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD

COUNTY CUP-HOLDERS AT KINGSHOLM

HANDSOME VICTORY FOR THE CITY

The visit of Cinderford, who recently distinguished themselves by beating Bristol in the county cup final, to Kingsholm, proved a big holiday attraction. The continuance of the summerlike weather was against the players, for the sun was baking hot, and the ground (though well watered) on the hard side. Gloucester were short of Gent, Hubert Smith, and Matthews, and Cinderford fielded minus Rhodes. The teams took the field at 3.35 as follows : –

Gloucester. – A. Wood, back; F. Smith, A. Hudson, T. West, and T. A. Truman, three-quarter backs; F. Arthur and J. Stephens, half-backs; B. Parham, W. Holder, A. Hawker, G. Vears, and A. Purton, forwards.

Cinderford. – H. Hyett, back; W. Smith, J. Cowmeadow, H. Smith, and J. Wright, three-quarter backs; A. Hall and F. Niblett (captain), half-backs; J. Hyndman, A. Teague, J. Watkins, H. Trafford, R. Adams, O. Burgham, A. Reddings, and G. Bowkett, forwards.

Referee : Mr. F. W. Nicholls (Leicester).

## THE GAME

Gloucester lost the toss, and Cinderford played with the strong sun at their backs. Parham kicked off amidst excitement, Bowkett returning to touch near the centre. The Foresters made ground from the first scrum, but Wood picked up and sent to touch on the 25 line.

Heeling by the City forwards saw Arthur send out to Stephens, and the latter punted, only to see W. Smith find touch with a screw kick. Immediately after a visitor kicked over the line and Wood touched down. Gloucester dropped out, and there being a good return play was taken to the home quarters. A big rush by the Cinderford forwards looked dangerous, but a good save was effected.

Gloucester worked out a bit, but neat kicking by the Foresters kept the game in the City half. Hyett stopped a promising rush of the home men, but a little later Parham headed a burst to Hyett, who saved on the centre line. Cinderford, getting possession from the scrums, opened out, and the ball came nicely across the line to W. Smith, who, however, was finely upset by Wood.

Gloucester retaliated, and West was conspicuous with a good run, but his pass went astray. In some loose play the Gloucester forwards broke away, and Hawker picking up, punted to the Cinderford line, where there was a scramble for possession. A Gloucester man secured and went over, but the whistle had previously gone for a knock on.

Gloucester pressed hotly, and there was a chance of a score, but Arthur passed wildly. Clever combination between West, Hudson, and Truman made considerable headway, but the defence was too strong. Wood replied to a penalty kick with a big punt, and a visitor fumbling the Gloucester forwards were put onside. Cinderford, however, saved by kicking dead.

Following the drop-out Cinderford visited the home end, where Burgham distinguished himself with a dashing run and pass, but Gloucester's tackling was too sound. A minute later another kick over the Gloucester line caused Wood to touch down. Play on the drop-out was fast and exciting, and slightly in Cinderford's favour. For palpable off-side by Hall, the visitors were penalised, and Wood's kick being well followed up, Purton tackled Hyett directly he received. This brought play out to the centre, where Holder, picking up in the loose, started a movement. A high kick followed, but Hyatt marked in fine style.

A great burst by the Gloucester forwards took the City close to their opponents' line, but the position was lost immediately, Cinderford reaching midfield before being checked. In a subsequent scramble F. Smith punted down, but Hyett returned nicely. Wood, however, got in a fine touchfinder a moment later well inside the Cinderford half. Niblett and Hyett, with good kicks, sent play to midfield, where Parham was prominent with some dashing work in the line-out. The forwards were mainly engaged, and both packs fought desperately.

Hudson distinguished himself with a dash and throw out to F. Smith, but the latter went to touch. Then a wild pass by a Gloucester man was taken by a visitor, who kicked. Holder got back to save, but failed to pick up, and the visitors dribbled on. Cowmeadow, on the right wing, came along at a big pace, and fielding the ball cleverly ran over and behind the posts, Wood failing to catch him, though he made a good effort. Hyett took the shot at goal, but the ball was touched by the Gloucester forwards, and the goal disallowed. Gloucester dropped out, and almost immediately Truman stopped a rush of the Forest forwards in daring fashion. Fielding a kick in the open, Holder passed out to Hudson, who punted, but the ball went over the line for a minor.

On the drop out Stephens opened out cleverly, and West and Truman made ground. The latter cross-kicked, and F. Smith securing he punted to the goal line. West followed up, and beating the opposition scored a try amidst enthusiasm, which was renewed when Wood gave Gloucester the lead by kicking the goal. The interval was then called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... 1 goal  
Cinderford ..... 1 try

Hyndman re-started for Cinderford, who now had to face the powerful sun. Gloucester were early at fault in erratic handling, but fortunately F. Smith recovered and got in a nice kick to touch. Gloucester heeled from a couple of scrums, but the visiting forwards broke up so quickly that they were able to prevent the three-quarters getting an opening.

Ensuing play was very fast, both teams working with great energy. The Cinderford forwards wheeling well bore down to Wood, who, however, effected a grand clearance. The same player was prominent again a little later with a lovely cross-kick. The Gloucester forwards got possession, and the ball was passed out, but a knock-on spoiled a fine opening.

Working in desperate style the Foresters cleared to beyond the centre, where Holder brought off a magnificent save and clearance. Near midfield, Stephens fed Hudson, who took the pass well, and went straight down the field. Feinting to transfer he deceived the opposition, and beating Hyett, the International concluded a fine effort by scoring in a favourable position. Wood again converted, giving Gloucester a seven points' lead.

Play on the resumption was fast and furious, each end in turn being visited. Gloucester missed a good chance by passing forward, and then Truman following up a kick by Hudson, had hard lines. He robbed Wright and Hyett of possession, but having cleared the men, he stumbled and fell to the ground. The Cinderford forwards came away from a dangerous position, and the referee allowing a couple of infringements to pass, they got right to the Gloucester line. A score appeared imminent, but a City man came across at the critical moment and saved.

Gloucester got out of danger, but Burgham (who was now playing extra three-quarter) punted to Wood, who at first misjudged the ball, but recovered and got in a fine kick to touch. Purton, with a punt from a line-out, sent play to the Cinderford 25, where Gloucester heeled. Truman, however, was stopped in trying to break through, and though he managed to pass to Arthur, the latter was immediately tackled. Slackness by the Gloucester backs allowed Cinderford to change the venue, and in one spirited dash the Foresters were only just stopped from scoring. A magnificent kick by Wood from off his goal line found touch at the centre, and from this point Gloucester, through a mistake by Hyett, had a chance of scoring, but it was not accepted.

From a clever bit of play by Arthur, Gloucester threw away another opportunity through knocking on. For the next five minutes Gloucester confined play to the Foresters' 25, but though the forwards heeled frequently the backs did not make the best use of their opportunities. Cinderford eventually raised the siege, but Gloucester returned, and from a long dribble by Collins the ball was taken over the line. Arthur made a good effort to get up, but just failed – a lucky escape for the Foresters.

After this Wood dropped for goal from a penalty, but the ball went wide of the posts. Just before the end, from a pass by Stephens, Hudson brought off a great run, and clean beating the opposing backs, ran behind the posts. Wood converted, and then the final was announced.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 3 goals (15 points)

Cinderford ..... 1 try (3 points)

#### REMARKS

A desperate game, and fought out at a terrific pace all through despite the heat. The cup-holders played a dashing game forward, but behind the advantage rested with Gloucester. There was not much combination, and what was attempted was of poor quality, due chiefly to the deadly tackling and close marking.

Cinderford held their own fairly well in the first half, but after the change of ends the City were on top. Gloucester had hard lines in losing one or two scores after the defence had been practically beaten. Hudson's two tries stood out as features of the game, the International clean beating the Foresters in each instance.

Arthur played a hard game at half, but he was erratic in getting the ball away from the scrum, and Stephens sadly missed the support of Gent. Wood took one or two risky flying kicks in the second half, but otherwise he was again in splendid form. Hyett kicked well, but his tackling was weak.

Truman and West did a number of good things in the home three-quarter line, but F. Smith scarcely had a chance. For Cinderford, Niblett, Wright, and Cowmeadow were prominent in the backs. The forwards on both sides performed grandly, and there was little to choose between the rival packs.

GLOUCESTER A v. CINDERFORD A

At Cinderford. Butler scored a capital try for Gloucester, and Cook landed a penalty goal. Cinderford replied with a try.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 1 goal (p), 1 try (6 points)  
Cinderford A ..... 1 try (3 points)

JC