

THE CITIZEN

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1907

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. NORTHAMPTON

EAST MIDLANDERS BEATEN

For the concluding fixture of the holiday programme Gloucester had Northampton for opponents on Tuesday. The East Midlanders had met Swansea and Llanelly on their tour, and lost both games.

J. H. Miles, the Northampton captain, injured his shoulder in the Llanelly match, and was an absentee. In his place the visitors enlisted the services of F. Simmonds, who formerly played for the club, but who now appears for Penygraig. Gent, Pegler, and Matthews were away from the home team.

There was a welcome change in the weather from a player's point of view, and rain threatened at the time of starting.

There was a fair gate when the teams lined out as follows : —

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

Northampton. — C. Leigh, back; F. Simmonds, H. West, E. Mobbs, and H. Harding, three-quarter backs; E. Wilkinson and H. C. McManus, half-backs; W. Birch, H. Burke, A. Chalmers, W. Welsh, H. P. Fussell, E. W. White, L. H. Mash, and L. G. Morrison, forwards.

Referee : Mr. C. Palmer (Bristol).

THE GAME

Parham kicked off for Gloucester ten minutes late against the wind, but some City players getting in front of the ball a scrum was ordered at the centre. Gloucester heeled, and Arthur passed out to Hudson, who got in a screw kick, which was returned to touch. A passing run and kick by Northampton sent to Wood, who replied, and then the visitors getting off-side, the City were awarded a penalty. Arthur took the return, but had his kick charged down, and the visitors took the ball close to the home line. Welsh, who was playing as a rover, was penalised for tackling Arthur off-side, and Wood gained relief for the City with the resultant kick.

Arthur and Stephens made further headway for Gloucester, but a forward in trying to pick up knocked on. Bad play by Gloucester lost a good position, and the visitors, with some neat handling got well inside the home half. West gained some ground with a neat kick, but a wild pass by Arthur from the scrum nearly let the side down.

Mistakes followed on both sides, and a knock on by Leigh let Gloucester out to midfield. A punt from a line-out by Northampton returned play to the Gloucester 25, where the visitors opened out. West made a good opening and wide pass to Mobbs, who raced on, but was finely tackled. Gloucester worked out to the centre, where the visitors started passing. Hudson, however, cleverly intercepted Mobbs' transfer, and only had Leigh to beat. This the Gloucesterian did in clever fashion, and raced home behind the posts for Wood to convert.

Northampton re-started, and Hawker was tackled before he could reply. The ball got loose, and the visiting forwards kicked and dribbled down touch. Wood, however, turned to touch. A minute later Arthur sent out a bad pass which went yards from Stephens. Wood and F. Smith saved the situation between them, but the latter injured his arm, and had to leave the field. Purton came out at wing three-quarter in Smith's place. Northampton at once attacked strongly, and the ball was taken over the Gloucester line, Purton kicking dead.

On the drop-out Collins led a rush of the Gloucester forwards, and Johns and Holder took the ball past Leigh. A visitor, however, got back and saved right on the line. Gloucester heeled smartly, Stephens worked out two lovely openings, but Hudson missed on each occasion. Frank Smith now returned amidst applause.

Gloucester were in a good attacking position, but Harding intercepted when the City got the ball out and raced away. He kicked over Wood's head, but Frank Smith ran back and got the ball to touch. Northampton got a lucky opening after this, but a knock on stopped them in time. Hawker and Parham followed up a mark-kick by Hollands so well that they had Mobbs in difficulties, but Parham kicked rather wildly to touch.

Scrambling play followed, and it was evident the players were suffering from the exertions of previous matches. The attempts by both sides to open out the game were not attended with much success, the handling being very scrappy. Wood shone with some very fine kicking, but once he took a flying kick which failed to come off. Fortunately the City custodian recovered his error in time.

The visiting backs indulged in a series of exchanges which promised well, but Mobbs was thrown to touch on the quarter line. Northampton had the better of subsequent exchanges, but at length Stephens broke away and fed Hudson, who made off at top speed. Clearing the opposition in fine style, the International reached Leigh, when he transferred nicely to F. Smith, who ran on and scored behind the posts. Wood again converted.

Holder replied well to the kick-off, and then the Gloucester forwards rushed a scrum and were looking dangerous when the visitors saved. Soon afterwards the interval was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	2 goals
Northampton	Nil

Northampton restarted, and opening play was fought out in the home half. The visitors got the better of the first few scrums and heeled, but a minor from a drop at goal by Harding was the only reward for their efforts. After the drop-out the East Midlanders rushed down to Wood, who was tackled and lost the ball. There was every chance of a score, but the visitors failed to accept.

A clever bit of play by F. Smith brought Gloucester out to more favourable quarters, and subsequently Johns dribbled past Leigh, only to see a visiting forward get back and save. In the Northampton 25 Gloucester tried passing, but McManus intercepted and ran to Wood, who upset him. The ball, however, rolled away, and Northampton had an open field. Hudson, however, ran back and robbed several visitors in smart style and kicked to touch.

Fine play by Holder started Gloucester going, and Leigh being beaten by footwork, the ball was taken over the line, where Collins dropped on the ball and scored. Wood added the goal points, and Gloucester held a fifteen points' lead.

Following the restart Northampton had more than a fare share of the game, but the attack was weak. Arthur was again at fault with wild passing from the scrum, but fortunately nothing serious resulted.

Simmonds, with a grand run for Northampton, was heartily applauded, but he was eventually brought down by Hudson when looking dangerous. A visitor, making a mark from a throw forward, Northampton had a shot for goal, but it was unsuccessful. From a cross-kick by Mobbs, Bloxsome fielded and raced clear, but he hesitated on reaching Leigh, and his pass was knocked to touch.

Gloucester confined play to their opponents' half for a few minutes, but McManus, taking a Gloucester pass, ran and punted. Wood got back and gathered, but being tackled, he threw forward and thus saved the situation. Northampton went close for a score after this, but they failed at the critical moment.

Bloxsome came away with another good run, but he failed to clear Leigh. Then Hudson brought off a strong dash, in the course of which he beat several opponents, but his pass was not accepted. Following a spell of even play, the Gloucester backs were started by Stephens. Hudson ran strongly and passed to F. Smith, who sprinted down touch, but was headed off. Gloucester held the advantage to the end, but nothing further was scored.

RESULT :

Gloucester 3 goals (15 points)
Northampton Nil

REMARKS

Northampton did much better than the score would indicate. In actual play the visitors had quite a fair share, but scoring ability was sadly lacking. Combination was at a discount, and the game generally, apart from some smart individual efforts, was not of a particularly high standard.

Hudson's try was very smartly obtained, and the International had a big hand in the third score. Northampton's forwards were good, but the rover handicapped the half-backs more than anything else. Arthur stood up pluckily to his opponents, and played smartly, but his passing out from the scrum was again very wild at times.

In the four holiday games Gloucester have collected 98 points to their opponents' 13.