

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1907

TO-DAY'S MATCHES

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD

RETURN MATCH WITH THE COUNTY CUP HOLDERS

WEAK CITY TEAM WELL BEATEN

Gloucester had some difficulty in fixing up a team to visit Cinderford for the return match with the county cup holders.

Injuries and illness laid aside "Whacker" Smith, Hudson, Bloxsome, Stephens, G. Vears, Pegler, and Hawker, whilst one or two other players would have stood down had circumstances permitted.

Furthermore, Marchant failed to put in an appearance at the railway station, but fortunately W. J. Pearce, of the Old Boys, turned up and accompanied the visitors.

The City back division had to be re-arranged, Hubert Smith appearing at outside half, and Robinson and Butler, of the Seconds, being requisitioned at centre three-quarter.

Against Cinderford, on the latter's ground, such a disorganised side was not one that carried confidence, and the Foresters certainly had a great chance of avenging the Easter Monday defeat at Kingsholm.

The Foresters fielded short of Hyett and Rhodes, the vacancies being filled by W. Beach and J. Cowmeadow.

As finally constituted the teams were : —

GLOUCESTER	Positions	CINDERFORD
A. Wood	Backs.	W. Beach
F. Smith	Three-Quarter	W. Smith
E. Butler	Backs.	J. Cowmeadow
W. Robinson	"	H. Smith
T. West	"	J. Wright
D. R. Gent (capt.)	Half-Backs.	F. Niblett (capt.)
H. Smith	"	A. Hall
B. Parham	"	J. Hyndman
W. Johns	Forwards.	A. Teague
L. Meek	"	J. Watkins
W. Holder	"	A. Reddings
H. Collins	"	O. Burgham
A. Purton	"	H. Trafford
W. J. Pearce	"	R. Adams
D. Hollands	"	G. Bowkett

Referee : Mr. H. Smith (Bristol).

Only a few supporters accompanied Gloucester to the Forest, and the attendance was considerably below expectations. Heavy rain had fallen in the morning, and the ground was on the soft side.

A punctual start was made, Parham kicking off down the slope. There was only a poor return, and opening play was contested in the Cinderford 25. The Foresters dribbled out, but the City quickly returned. A forward sent into touch a few yards from the home goal-line. Useful kicks brought Cinderford to the centre, but Wood with a couple of good punts transferred operations to the home half.

Cinderford were doing much better than Gloucester in the scrums, but the backs were not able to do much. So far the play had been very quiet, but at length the Cinderford forwards burst away, forcing Wood to run to touch at midfield. A lucky flying kick by Gloucester was well followed up by Pearce, who robbed Beach and started passing, but a visitor was pushed out of play.

Wood had a shot for goal from a penalty, but the kick went wide, and Bowkett punted past Wood. The latter ran back and recovering got in a fine kick to touch. Ensuing play was of a tame description, and nothing of incident occurred.

Cinderford tried to open out, but W. Smith mis-kicked, the ball going to Beach, who fortunately cleared. Shortly afterwards Wood forced a minor with a big kick over the line. Holder was prominent in a throw-out on the resumption, but he lost the ball, and Cinderford sent back.

Beach stopped a dangerous rush of the City forwards, and then Gent got the ball away smartly from the scrum. F. Smith, however, kicked straight to Wright, and no ground was gained. Wood was pressed by the homesters, but he was very safe and brought about a good clearance. Cinderford, however, quickly got dangerous, and following a sharp forward dash, Wright was credited with a corner try. The place kick failed.

Play on the re-start favoured Cinderford, and twice the City line narrowly escaped. Gloucester eventually cleared through Gent, who followed up and put Johns on side. The latter and Hubert Smith reached Beach, but a Cinderfordian came back to help and saved. Immediately after Hubert Smith broke away and fed Robinson, but the centre was tackled.

Smith was conspicuous again a moment later with a neat breakaway, but he slipped to the ground in trying to cut inside an opponent. Gloucester were doing much better now, but F. Smith foolishly dropped for goal once with his three-quarters well placed. The City continued to have the better of the exchanges, but could do nothing when it came to attack.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Cinderford 1 try
Gloucester Nil

Hyndman re-started for Cinderford, but failed to send the ball the necessary ten yards, and a scrum followed in the centre. Gent robbed the home halves from the first scrum, and the City captain made a lovely run and passed to Butler. The latter re-passed and Frank Smith next received, but he was stopped in time.

Gloucester confined operations to their opponents' half, but all attempts to open out were nipped in the bud. Good play by W. Smith put Cinderford in a good position, and Niblett worked out a nice opening. Passing, however, went astray at the critical moment.

A loose rush by the Foresters was partially checked by Holder, who picked up and handed back to Wood. The latter, though surrounded, tried to kick, but the ball was charged down, and H. Smith went over with a soft try. Bowkett failed at goal.

Gloucester dropped out, and Wood twice distinguished himself by robbing the Cinderford forwards and getting in grand kicks to touch. The Foresters, however, were not to be denied, and Hall, after a strong run, passed to Wright, who scored easily. Beach's shot for goal just missed.

Cinderford, with a substantial lead of nine points, played up in irresistible style, and brilliant passing only just failed in another score, Cowmeadow being brought down on the line by Wood. Then Beach had a long shot at goal, but only a touchdown resulted.

Following the drop-out Gloucester held their own for a brief period, but beautiful combination between the home half-backs and Burgham took the latter down to Wood, who effected a grand tackle. Gloucester were hard pressed in subsequent play, but they managed to keep their lines intact.

West eventually brought relief with a good dribble, but Beach saved nicely. After this Cinderford took up the running again, and ran the visitors off their feet. The backs combined in some clever passing, and the forwards displayed dashing form.

Niblett eventually cleared from a scrum, and following some neat exchanges W. Smith raced over with a fourth try. Beach's shot for goal struck the cross-bar and rebounded into the field of play.

Cinderford, on the drop-out, returned to touch strongly, Burgham and Hyndman being prominent. Robinson brought relief by intercepting, and for a few minutes play hovered near mid-field. Cinderford pressed to the end, but there was no more scoring.

RESULT :

Cinderford 4 tries (12 points)
Gloucester Nil

REMARKS

Cinderford thoroughly deserved their handsome victory. In the second half the cup-holders, after the first five minutes, were clearly on top, and the three tries scored do not represent the advantage they held. Forward, Cinderford were greatly superior, and in the second half Gloucester did not have a look in.

Hyndman, Bowkett, Teague, and Watkins were in splendid form, and in the loose the whole pack kept well together. For Gloucester, Holder, Pearce, and Parham were the most prominent of a front that was outclassed.

At half, Hall and Niblett combined cleverly, and were more than a match for Gent and Hubert Smith, though it must be remembered the City pair were playing behind beaten forwards. The Gloucester three-quarters had very few chances and as a line they could not be compared with the Cinderford quartette.

Wood repeatedly saved in great style for the City at full-back, and but for him Gloucester would have failed disastrously. Beach gave a very good show for Cinderford, and made no mistakes. Cinderford's victory gave great satisfaction to their supporters, and there was a demonstration at the close of the match.

GLOUCESTER A v. CINDERFORD A

CITY SECOND STRING SUCCESSFUL

Gloucester started from the Worcester-street end, the ball going to touch. Play continued in the visitors' half. Beard made a rush, but ran into touch.

The scene of operations still remained in the Cinderford half, but the City could do nothing further.

A free for Cinderford went to touch, not relieving them much. The Citizens, however, were not able to effect anything until Wyburn secured the ball from a line-out and ran down the field, scoring easily behind the posts. Bridges added the extra points.

Careless play by Gloucester let their opponents up as far as the goal posts, but the former managed to escape by the skin of their teeth.

Bridges kicked a magnificent penalty just before "lemons."

HALF-TIME SCORE ;
Gloucester A 2 goals (1p)
Cinderford A Nil

On resumption Cinderford, now playing with the sun in their eyes, followed up their kick-off and Mountjoy scored easily, the same player failing at the goal kick.

Better play by the visitors continued to be shown, and the game was confined for some time to the Citizens' half.

Play occasionally went into the Worcester-street end, but its defenders did not allow it to remain long there.

RESULT :
Gloucester A 2 goals (8 points)
Cinderford A 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

Although it must be admitted that the Gloucestersians were superior on the day's play, their football was characterised by carelessness and laziness, due, perhaps, to its being near the end of the season.

Cinderford showed up in considerably better form during the second moiety, and seldom allowed the ball to enter their domain. They were scarcely heavy enough, though. The game was an open one, and played in good spirit throughout.

JC