

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1907

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CINDERFORD

CITIZENS IN THE FOREST

DRAW OF THREE POINTS EACH

The second of the three fixtures arranged between the City Club and Cinderford was played at Cinderford.

Less than a fortnight ago, the Foresters appeared at Kingsholm, a splendidly contested game ending in favour of Gloucester by 9 points to 5.

The county cup-holders had great hopes of reversing that verdict to-day, for at home they are well-nigh invincible.

Until Gloucester beat them in a cup-tie two seasons ago, Cinderford had a ground record of something like six years, and the only match lost since then was to Bristol last April.

This season the Foresters had successfully disposed of Bristol, Abertillery, Stroud, and Pontypool at home, and it was their great ambition to add Gloucester to the list.

Both clubs were well represented, though "Whacker" Smith stood down from the visitors' ranks owing to ill-health.

F. Bloxsome filled the vacancy, taking the wing position, Hudson going centre.

Gloucester. – A. E. Wood, back; H. Smith, A. Hudson, E. Hall, F. Bloxsome, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent, J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), W. Johns, B. Parham, G. Matthews, H. Quixley, J. Merchant, D. Hollands, R. Craddock, forwards.

Cinderford. – C. Harrington, back; J. Cowmeadow, H. B. Mack, W. Rhodes, W. Smith, three-quarter backs; F. Niblett (capt.), A. Hall, half-backs; F. Teague, J. Hyndman, J. Watkins, A. Bedding, O. Burgham, J. Wright, R. Adams, R. Dobbs.

Referee : Referee : Mr. H. Smith (Bristol).

THE GAME

There were two changes in the Cinderford ranks, Meek and Trafford standing down for C. Harrington and R. Dobbs. The weather was dull, but the rain fortunately kept off. There was a good crowd of spectators, though the attendance was hardly up to expectations.

Gloucester won the toss, and Vears electing to play uphill with the wind, Burgham started, and the home forwards following up, prevented a return, and securing possession a Cinderford player punted high, but Wood saved in good style.

The Gloucester forwards heeling, Gent opened out, and the City backs brought off a brilliant round of passing. Hubert Smith centred and cross-kicked cleverly, but a home player got back and saved luckily. Cinderford kicked out to Wood over midfield, and the Gloucester custodian took a drop for goal, the ball going just wide of the upright and over the line for a minor.

Wood replied finely to the drop-out, but a loose rush by the Forest forwards took them beyond the centre line, and clever combination between Gent and Stephens promised well, but Cowmeadow intercepted and punted down. Hall however got back and with a neat punt found touch. A nice kick by Hollands gained a good twenty yards for Gloucester.

Ensuing play was fought out at mid-field. The Gloucester forwards were doing splendidly in the scrum and heeling well, but the backs could not get moving. An off-side tackle by Niblett lost his side a nice slice of ground, but they quickly recovered and Hall was prominent with a strong burst for the [word unreadable] but he was checked. Gloucester made headway from a line-out, and Hubert Smith further improved matters with a well-judged punt to touch.

A loose burst by the home forwards changed the venue, but the Gloucester backs responded with grand passing and inter-passing, Hall being only stopped just in time.

Gloucester now attacked strongly and the home defence was seriously tested, and Stephens missing a pass allowed Burgham to dribble away, but Gent effected a clever save. From a scrum just inside the Gloucester half, Hall secured and passed to Niblett, who cut through cleverly. Yielding to Rhodes, the latter handed to Smith who raced over in the corner with a fine try. Rhodes failed at goal.

Wood re-started, and play was fought out in the Gloucester half. Hudson intercepted a home pass and ran cleverly to the full-back. He beat Harrington but was checked smartly, and was collared from behind by Rhodes with an open ground. Gloucester had the better of the ensuing play, the forwards driving openly. The keen tackling of the home backs, however, kept the line intact.

Stephens once looked like going through, but in passing the ball was knocked on. Play was wholly confined to the Cinderford half, and was very keen. Taking advantage of a mistake by Niblett, Stephens picked up and ran down touch. There was a good opening for Hubert Smith, but the half-back passed inside and the chance was lost.

Cinderford worked out of danger, but Hubert Smith ran back and the home team only saved on the line and the Foresters punted out, only to see Wood mark in fine style in the face of determined opposition.

With his kick, the Gloucester custodian found touch in the home 25, and the City made desperate efforts to score, and twice they had distinctly hard lines after beautiful passing. Hudson was tackled a few yards outside, and then Hubert Smith missed a certainty.

Gloucester were not discouraged by their ill-luck, and just before the interval, following a fine effort by Hudson, E. Hall raced over behind the posts. Wood unfortunately missed the goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 try
Cinderford 1 try

Vars restarted, and after an exchange of kicks play settled near the centre, and Cinderford re-arranged their team, Mack and Wright changing places.

Cinderford rushed the first scrum, but the Gloucester backs replied with passing and a kick by Hudson. Cowmeadow, however, cleared.

Grand kicking by Wood gave the City an advantage, and a beautiful movement by Stephens and Hall looked certain for a score. Hudson received and made a dash, but his pass went astray with the defence practically beaten.

Gloucester immediately after made another hot attack, but Hudson held on too long. Pretty work between Hall and Niblett gained considerable ground for Cinderford, and ensuing play was contested in the City half, and operations were confined to the forwards for some time, but at length Gent opened out cleverly.

Hall contributed and quickly ran and passed to Hudson, when Hubert Smith, the wing man, cross-kicked, and there was a scramble for possession.

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E. Hall contributed a tricky run and passed to Hudson, who fed Hubert Smith. The wing man cross-kicked, and there was a scramble for possession. Gloucester secured and dribbled to the line where Harrington luckily turned to touch. The Foresters worked out of danger, and Meek, with a kick from a mark, sent the game to midfield.

A lucky flying kick by Burgham improved matters for the home team, but E. Hall, with a lovely punt, put Gloucester down again.

Subsequent play lacked incident being mainly of a close forward character. The Cinderford forwards heeled several times, but the defence of the visitors was very sound.

Wood made a couple of marks under severe pressure, and with his kicks brought relief to the City. The last ten minutes were hotly contested, Cinderford playing up desperately to gain the lead. The defence, however, proved equal to the occasion, and before the end Gloucester had worked out to centre.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 try (3 points)
Cinderford 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

Cinderford's ground record is safe, but the Foresters may count themselves a lucky team in escaping defeat today. In the first half the City were attacking three-parts of the time, and only wretched luck prevented at least three tries being scored.

It was a desperately fought out game, but at times both teams were very erratic. The Gloucester forwards are to be heartily congratulated on a very fine display. They beat their opponents in the scrum repeatedly, and the heeling was always sharp and clean. In the open, too, the men gave a good account of themselves, following up well, tackling keenly, and using their feet to advantage whenever possible.

Towards the end the City players began to feel the effects of their exertions up the slope in the first half, and during this period Cinderford got the upper hand. There was a rare struggle at half-back, but Stephens and Gent held their own in every respect. Gent was overpowered now and again by the burly Hall, but the International got the ball away beautifully at times.

Stephens played a perfect game, and fed his three-quarter line nicely. The Gloucester three-quarters showed clever combination, but there was something wanting occasionally in finish. Ernie Hall's try was a beauty, and well deserved. Wood gave a magnificent display at full-back, being marred by only one mistake in fielding. Harrington also did well for Cinderford, showing good defence.

The Foresters were best served at three-quarter by Smith and Rhodes. Mack was little short of a failure, being very unreliable and often in the way. Niblett played a nice game, the Cinderford captain's touch-kicking helping his side frequently.

GLOUCESTER A v. CINDERFORD A

GOOD WIN FOR THE CITY SECOND STRING

A NEW THREE-QUARTER

These teams met at Kingsholm on Saturday, before a small attendance. As when the premier teams met, there was keen rivalry, and a good game was anticipated. The teams were : –

Gloucester A : – F. Welshman, back; J. M. Baldwin, G. Cook, W. Robinson, and F. Smith, three-quarter backs; H. F. R. Arthur (capt.) and W. Dix, half-backs; J. Wyburn, J. Holford, G. Griffiths, H. Collins, W. Blackford, H. Taylor, W. Bailey, and S. Hayward, forwards.

Cinderford A : – H. Hyett, back; Colwell, Meek, Bowkett, and Meredith, three-quarter backs; Woolford and Cooper, half-backs; Mountjoy, Butt, Cook, Leighton, Jones, Bevan, Buffrey, and Dorrington, forwards.

Referee : Mr. A. F. Hughes.

The game opened in neutral territory, and Hyett was twice called upon, but was very safe. Gradually, Cinderford worked up into Gloucester's 25, but when they tried passing they lost ground, and Gloucester worked out to the centre. Cinderford with a long kick forced a minor.

Gloucester were penalised for "not in fairly," but the visitors were whistled back for getting in front of the kicker. Twice Gloucester heeled nicely, but Arthur, working the scrum, left something to be desired in his passing out.

Cinderford broke up an attempt at passing by the home backs and rushed to the Gloucester 25. Cinderford got very near the line, and in a desperate scramble Woolford dropped over with a corner try, which was not converted.

The home backs opened out after this, and Baldwin put in a good run, carrying the game to the Cinderford territory. A moment later the other wing had a chance, but Robinson passed badly and gave Smith, on the wing, no chance.

The referee had some cause of complaint with someone on the touch-line, and warned him to behave himself. As if in contrast to this somewhat disturbing incident, Gloucester put in a wonderfully fine bit of play, which ended in Baldwin receiving from Cook and scoring after a splendid run. Welshman goaled with a fine kick from the touch-line.

Even play followed for some time, and then Gloucester were granted a free. Cook kicked across, but the wing man failed to gather. The home team, however, pressed until half-time.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 1 goal
Cinderford A 1 try

Immediately on resuming Gloucester took up the aggressive, and Robinson breaking through finely a score looked certain. Cook,

however, missed the pass. Not to be denied, Gloucester tried again, and the ball coming out to F. Smith on the opposite wing, the popular “Tinker” made off at top speed, and beating Hyett pointless ran over with a good try. Welshman failed to convert.

Gloucester were within an ace of scoring again, but a forward transfer spoilt the movement. Later, Gloucester had a fine opportunity, but Cook essayed a drop at goal instead of passing, and thereby lost a practically moral certainty for a try. A second later Smith had a clear run in, but travelling at high speed he just failed to gather. Cook made no mistake the next time, and after a blunder by Dix he dropped a lovely goal.

A spell of even play followed, and then Cinderford pressed, but bad passing lost them a score. A desperate struggle ensued on the home line, the Foresters making strenuous efforts to score, but they were beaten off. Cinderford, however, returned to the attack, and in a scrambling movement Butt scored and Meredith converted.

Gloucester returned to the attack, and Cook made a nice opening, but Robinson failed to take the pass. Smith got going a moment later, but he failed to clear the full-back. By the aid of a mark Cinderford got out of danger.

Cook fumbled a pass, but he put in a good touch-finder and Gloucester were on the aggressive again. Collins received in the line-out, and with admirable judgment threw the ball out wide to his three-quarters. Cook gathered well, and after Robinson had handled, Smith ran in with a corner try – a well-deserved ending to a pretty movement. No goal resulted.

A minute later, the ball came out again well, but Cook knocked on. Gloucester were now at it hammer and tongs, and Baldwin, receiving from Dix, with a fine dash through a host of opponents scored a grand try. Welshman goaled. Give and take play followed to the end.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 3 goals (1d), 2 tries (20 points)
Cinderford A 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)

REMARKS

It was not a great exhibition of football, the handling being mostly of a faulty description, but the game proved indisputably that in J. M. Baldwin the City club have made a “find” with a capital F. He is very fast, dodges cleverly, and goes straight for the line like a shot, and in addition is a capital tackler. His two tries were real beauties, and if he maintains this form he is bound to receive recognition.

There was not much to choose between the forwards, but if anything Gloucester got the ball a little better in the scrum. The weak spot to-day was Dix, who held too long, and continually ran his wing to touch before passing. This is quite new for him, and we can only hope that he will drop the habit instanter, as there is nothing more exasperating to the onlookers and the team than this continual waste of opportunities. The other backs were good, and as a whole the Seconds deserved their clear twelve points’ win.

JC