

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1907

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. EXETER

Owing to the calls of the county, Gloucester's ranks were seriously weakened at Exeter, reserves having to be called on to replace Wood (back), Hudson (three-quarter), Gent (half), and Johns and Holland (forwards).

Exeter, too, had absentees. Owing to the heavy rain the ground was soft and greasy.

The teams were:

Gloucester: – F. Welshman, back; C. Smith, E. Hall, G. Cook, and F. Bloxsome, three-quarter backs; W. Dix and J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), B. Parham, H. Quixley, H. Collins, R. Craddock, G. Matthews, F. Pegler, and J. Wyburn, forwards.

Exeter: – Goddard, back; S. Ash, C. Newberry, F. Harris, and P. Baker, three-quarter backs; S. Kerswill and F. Carter, half-backs; C. Morgan, H. T. Lee, W. Mills, W. J. Pike, T. Shorland, S. Lawrence, W. Youlden, and W. Tallman, forwards.

Referee: Mr. J. T. Helson (Plymouth).

THE GAME

The weather was beautiful and the ground greasy. Mr. Duke, K.C., started for Gloucester, and Exeter at once assumed the aggressive, but the Gloucester forwards, by a capital round of passing, penetrated the home territory. The stay was but momentary, a cross kick by Smith going wrong, but the visitors renewed the attack from a smart pass by Bloxsome. The Gloucester forwards were, however, penalised for off-side, and following the free Newberry went off in capital style, taking play to the visitors' quarters.

Gloucester again assumed the offensive, but Kerswill stopped a dangerous movement with a well-judged kick to touch. Some smart form was being displayed by the visiting forwards, whilst good combination was shown in the back division. Stephens broke away in capital style, but his pass was faulty. Gloucester, however, developed an attack on the right wing. Baker fumbled on the home 25 and passed right back to Goddard, who kicked into the arms of Smith, who ran in with the softest of tries, the conversion kick succeeding.

Gloucester again pressed immediately, and Hall was about to score under the posts but lost the oval. From the ensuing scrum Dix scored, the goal kick being again successful. Exeter then showed some aggression, but Gloucester had little difficulty in forcing Exeter close home by smart work among the visiting backs, but a forward pass spoilt a certain try.

The game was transferred to the Gloucester 25 by a forward rush, but the homesters were speedily repulsed to neutral territory. Carter, by a smart opening, gave the home backs a chance, but though they passed well they were intercepted, and Welshman sent them back. The crowd protested against the actions of the Gloucester touch-judge. Gloucester kept the upper hand 'till the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE:

Gloucester.....2 goals
Exeter.....Nil

Exeter, restarting, put Gloucester right on the defensive, the ball going into touch well within their quarter flag. The oval was sent back to Goddard, who again sent to touch, and the referee then overruled Gloucester's touch judge. The Gloucester forwards, however, got away in capital style, and Cook scored after a very fine run, but the try remained unconverted.

Exeter had out one of their forwards to stop the constant bursts of the Gloucester backs. At length Carter made an excellent opening for his quarters in the centre, and from really good passing between Harris, Newberry, and Ash, the last named scored an unconverted try for Exeter.

Immediately afterwards Gloucester were penalised under their posts, and Carter kicked a goal. Exeter, by improved forward play, continued for a time to have the best of matters. Relief eventually came with a flying kick to touch beyond the half-way flag, but Exeter was soon attacking again. By a determined rush the Gloucester forwards carried the game half the length of the field, and the ball was kicked over the line, but the visitors lost an easy try. Again Exeter obtained a good position, this time by a fine save and kick by Goddard and a dribble by Lee. Gloucester saved from a penalty, but were quickly driven close home and hardly pressed for some time, but without avail, mistakes constantly letting Exeter down.

RESULT:

Gloucester.....	2 goals 1 try (13 points)
Exeter.....	1 goal (p) 1 try (6 points)

REMARKS

Gloucester showed few signs of their abstentions, and from the start almost to the finish the side worked together with great precision, and yet with much resource and trickiness. Their outside attack was the feature of the game, while the handling by all sections was notably good. Gloucester overran the home side for three parts of the game, and the score by no means flatters their superiority.