

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1908

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. LEICESTER

SADLY DISORGANISED CITY TEAM

BEATEN BY ELEVEN POINTS

The Gloucester captain experienced a lot of trouble in fixing up the team to go to Leicester, players crying off wholesale on Friday. Several players are on the injured list, and others are indisposed, whilst Hudson was engaged for England against Ireland.

Neale, the Bristolian, was chosen, but he met with a trap accident yesterday and had to decline his place.

The back division had to be reorganised, Dix and Albert Hall operating at half, and Stephens going to the three-quarter line.

Leicester were strongly represented, and were expected to win by a substantial margin.

Teams : —

Gloucester. — A. S. Price, back; F. Smith, J. Stephens, G. Cook, and H. Smith, three-quarter backs; A. Hall, W. Dix, half-backs; G. Vears, W. Johns, B. Parham, D. Hollands, H. Quixley, K. Griffiths, F. Pegler, G. Holford, forwards.

Leicester. — E. J. Jackett back; T. Edwards, K. B. Wood, J. W. D. Smith, P. W. Lawrie, three-quarter backs; G. W. Wood, J. R. Watson, half-backs; S. Matthews (capt.), S. Penny, A. Goodrich, F. Jackson, T. W. Smith, A. J. Hobbs, A. Mills, W. H. Bingham, forwards.

THE GAME

Leicester started, the first scrum being fought out in the Gloucester half. G. Wood was penalised for off-side, but the ensuing free availed the citizens nought. Then Gloucester came under the ban of the referee for feet up in the scrum, and from Jackett's penalty kick the leather went over the visitor's dead ball line.

The game settled down in the Westerners' 25, where Leicester had the better of some loose play. Gloucester were again penalised, this time for off-side, but Price touched down from a long kick by Jackett. The visitors' forwards subsequently broke away, but Jackett saved the situation.

From a line-out Lawrie received and ran through the opposing backs, but when nearing the line he slipped. This enabled Gloucester to raise the siege, and Jackett being tackled in possession the visitors had an excellent opening. Edwards, however, relieved with a timely kick.

Dix tried to open up the game, and Hall gave Stephens a fine opening, but he preferred to kick instead of going on, and the chance was lost, Jackett receiving and finding touch in the Gloucester 25. Smart tackling and quick following up enabled Leicester to keep the Westerners in check. From a breakaway the Midlanders came very near scoring, and then penalties in quick succession against Gloucester finally left Leicester in an advantageous position. From a scrum close in Dixie Smith secured a try, but the place kick failed.

The drop out saw Leicester again attacking, Jackson adding a second try after a good run by K. Wood. Again the goal kick failed. Near the interval Stephens missed a goal from a free, and the visiting backs indulged in some pretty passing, Smith being grassed when a score seemed certain.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Leicester	2 tries
Gloucester	Nil

On changing ends Gloucester had the best of the opening exchanges, Leicester being driven close in upon their lines, but it cannot be said the visitors really became dangerous, though their forwards were seen to advantage in open foot work. Matthews, Jackson, and Edwards were conspicuous on the home side, but the Gloucester forwards checked attacks, and the defence was also sound.

The “Tigers” were not to be denied, however. G. W. Wood evaded his opponents, and Watson and Dixie Smith continuing the movement the last-named got over behind the posts, Jackson this time adding the goal points.

A Gloucester player made his mark, from which his side obtained benefit, but this was thwarted. Leicester were penalised, but the kick fell short. Play now went to mid-field.

A movement by Jackson and Smith ended in the latter going into touch. From a scrum near the Gloucester 25 the ball was kicked over the line, and Hobbs dashing up touched down, but the try was disallowed.

Watson gave Lawrie possession, but the wing man, after running finely, was brought down in the visitors’ 25. Here Smith got possession and ran splendidly, but when near the line he was overhauled by Jackett.

Gloucester maintained the pressure, a clever round of passing being spoilt by a forward pass. Lawrie and Watson enabled Leicester to break away to the centre, Jackett eventually finding touch in the Gloucester 25.

Dix beat Wood for possession and enabled the ‘Cestrians to again get a footing in their opponents’ half. Hall further improved the position, but the home backs recovered.

Just before time Lawrie got in a fine ineffective run for Leicester.

RESULT :

Leicester1 goal 2 tries (11 points)
Gloucester Nil

REMARKS

Had Gloucester utilised their chances they would not have been eleven points down at the close of the game. The forwards gave a good display, and were very effective in open footwork, but the backs were not strong enough to push home the attack.

Notwithstanding Leicester had many narrow escapes, especially in the second half, when the visitors rallied and played finely. Hall must have scored towards the close had he pace enough. He, Cook, and F. Smith did well.

GLOUCESTER A. v. WEST END

EIGHT POINTS' WIN FOR THE SECONDS

The Seconds had a weak side out for this match at Kingsholm, for besides the players assisting the First, Wyburn and Taylor were absent. A. Hall was away from the West End.

The Locals started, and profiting by being put on-side through the ball touching a Gloucester man with the return kick, they were at once placed in a good position. Gloucester relieved, but the West getting the better of the opening scrums confined play to the Seconds' half.

Attempts at passing by the backs broke down, and Gloucester travelled to the centre. The Brothers Arthur opened out nicely, but W. Hall slipped and the movement was stopped.

West End then rushed away in good style, but were stopped on the quarter-line. A breakaway by the Seconds' forwards took them back to the other end, where Watts marked. Some loose play followed, and ended in Cook marking in a good position, but his drop for goal was a long way out. Ensuing play favoured the West End, who reached the home end by good forward work. Here the ball came across to Beard, who dribbled cleverly and beat Watts.

Another kick sent the leather over the line, but before Beard could get up it had crossed the dead-ball line. On the drop out the Gloucester backs showed up with some clever passing, W. Hall being held up just outside. West End worked out of danger, but Gloucester soon got on the attack again through W. Hall.

The Brothers Arthur fed the backs cleverly, but with a nice opening Smith intercepted and ran to the centre. Gloucester again handled nicely, only to see Beard miss his transfer, with a straight run-in in view. A mistake by F. Arthur allowed the Locals to gain a footing in the City 25, but the Seconds' forwards brought relief. Some neat exchanges by the home backs left the ball with Baldwin, but the wing man was pushed to touch.

Gloucester were on the attack again a minute later, but Baldwin's attempt to beat the defence was frustrated. Play was wholly confined to the End half, and from a line-out Wixey gathered and dashed for the mark. He was, however, pounced upon from behind and held up.

West End eased the pressure after this, but Perry put them on the defence again with a big punt. Neat work by the Seconds' halves put Cook in possession, but with Hall and Beard well placed Cook held on too long. Soon afterwards the interval was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A	Nil
West End	Nil

Hawker resumed, play settling in the West half. A misfortune early befell Gloucester, S. Arthur having to retire. W. Hall went half with Captain Arthur, and Berry was brought out of the scrum to centre three-quarter.

The Locals at once made headway on the game being continued, but later on Gloucester lost a fine opportunity through over-running the ball. A penalty to the Seconds saw Cook take a shot for goal, but the ball fell short. The kick-out went to Perry, who nearly dropped a goal with a fine kick.

Gloucester might have scored in the next few minutes, but the passing was too slow. The game just now had deteriorated, play being very scrambling. A dribble by Hawker promised well, but a visitor dropped on the ball in fearless fashion. Still Gloucester continued to press, and after some exchanges Berry dashed through. His pass was a bad one, but Baldwin secured, and after shaking off a couple of opponents, transferred to Cook, who scored in the corner. Perry failed with the goal-kick.

On the restart there was a spell of even play, but the pace set at the start was not maintained. Clever kicking by the End backs placed the Locals well inside the home half, but Hall changed the venue with a punt to mid-field. Back West came to the Gloucester quarter, where there was a stoppage owing to W. Hall receiving a knock on the head in stopping a rush. The Locals maintained their position for a brief period, but eventually Gloucester relieved.

Near the centre Berry fielded, following a mistake by a visitor, and passing to W. Hall, the latter ran down to Watts and then passed to Beard, who raced round behind the posts with a good try. Perry added the goal points.

Following the restart, Arthur kicked away from Bagwell and dribbled to the line, where a try was only just missed. The End saved again twice in quick succession, but before the final they had removed play to mid-field.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 1 goal 1 try (8 points)
West End Nil

REMARKS

The Seconds were hard pressed at times, but on the run of the game they thoroughly deserved their win. West End were strong forward, but behind the Locals were beaten in cleverness. Still, their defence held out for a long time.

Even with a man short the A team were the better lot, and towards the end they outplayed their opponents at all points. Both tries were well worked for, and one or two more scores ought to have resulted from the many combined movements initiated by the Brothers Arthur, who did extremely well at half-back.

Perry proved a safe custodian and kicked exceedingly well. Pegler was the most useful of the West backs, and Cook and Hall for Gloucester.

JC