

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1908

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. PILL HARRIERS

This was a guarantee match to fill up an open date on the Gloucester card. Hudson and Gent reappeared for the City team, but Stephens, Johns, and Parham took a rest. Dix came in for Stephens, playing outside half.

Pill brought a strong team, the side being captained by G. Travers, who led the Welsh fifteen to victory in the match with Scotland this season.

The weather was very cold, and there was only a moderate crowd in attendance.

Gloucester. – F. Welshman, back; C. Smith, A. Hudson, G. Cook, and F. Smith, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent and W. Dix, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), G. Griffiths, D. Hollands, R. Craddock, F. Pegler, G. Holford, H. Quixley, and J. Wyburn, forwards.

Pill Harriers. – W. Haley, back; W. Shepheard, I. William, J. Manchip, and W. Young, three-quarter backs; W. Harvey and W. Moses, half-backs; G. Travers, T. Davies, H. Davies, F. Hathaway, A. Shepstone, B. Dewfall, E. Lewis, and R. Saunders, forwards.

Referee : Mr. J. Milburn (Bristol).

THE GAME

Vears started for Gloucester, who had to face the sun, the return going to touch at midfield. The City were early awarded a penalty, but little ground was gained owing to a good return by Harvey.

Wheeling a scrum the visitors broke away, but Cook robbed them cleverly and took the ball to Haley, who punted to touch. The Harriers' forwards again carried a scrum, but kicked too hard, and Dix fielding passed to Gent, who kicked across. C. Smith gathered, but being collared transferred to Hudson, who had come outside, and the International punted high. Haley, however, marked, and a minute later Williams also made a mark from Hollands' return. Play was very quiet, and nothing of incident occurred.

In a scramble near touch T. Davies sustained an injury to his knee and had to go off. Resuming, Dix and Gent took part in some neat play which ended in the Harriers' half being visited. Here Gent and Dix opened out nicely, and C. Smith passing to Hudson, the latter burst through and kicked. The ball went to the left wing, but bounced to touch before Frank Smith could get up. Gloucester, from this point, got well away, and Haley was called upon to repel a dangerous attack, which he did successfully. For an infringement at the scrum Pill were penalised, but Welshman failed with his goal kick.

Following the drop-out Cook found touch splendidly with a grand kick. The Harriers worked out, but from a big punt by Hudson, Haley attempted to make a mark. He, however, failed to gather the ball, but the referee having whistled for a mark he was allowed to have it. By the aid of the kick Pill reached the centre, and unintentional off-side by a Gloucester forward lost the City some 20 yards. Here Moses, receiving from a scrum, tricked the home backs prettily, but Harvey, to whom he passed, was collared just outside. Gloucester relieved through Dix, but Haley punted back and forced a minor.

On the restart Cook was prominent with some good work, and Frank Smith looked likely to have a chance, but he over-ran the ball. The Harriers (who had now got Davies back) returned with neat handling, and Young was well placed, but he fumbled his transfer. The visitors again heeled, and the halves got the ball away nicely, but Cook intercepted and kicked down. F. Smith raced hard and dribbled down, but again the ball beat him.

The Harriers were again penalised, but Welshman's kick was charged down, and a scrum followed. From here Dix dodged through beautifully and ran nearly to the full back when he passed to Cook. The latter handed on the ball, but it was captured by an opponent, who ran behind his line and was tackled. A scrum was ordered five yards outside, and the Gloucester forwards heeling, Gent fed Dix, who sent to Hudson. The International tried to burst through, but was upset. He, however, managed to get rid of the ball, and Cook snapping up the leather [*2 or 3 words unreadable*] over smartly. Welshman failed at goal.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 try
Pill Harriers 1 try

[*THERE IS NO REPORT ON THE SECOND HALF OF THIS MATCH*]

RESULT :

Gloucester 3 goals (1p), 2 tries (19 pts)
Pill Harriers 1 try (3 points)