

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1908

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. LENNOX

Continuing their tour the Londoners, who the previous day were well beaten at Bristol, appeared a Kingsholm. The City were weakly represented, the absentees including Vears, Hudson, Welshman, Gent, and Parham.

The visitors made one or two changes from the side defeated by Bristol, the teams being as follows : —

Gloucester. — F. Perry, back; F. Smith, G. Cook, J. Stephens, and J. Beard, three-quarter backs; A. Hall and W. Dix, half-backs; W. Johns, H. Quixley, F. Pegler, H. Berry, G. Holford, D. Hollands, R. Craddock, and H. Wixey, forwards.

Lennox. — W. Napier, back; L. Garrett, J. J. Kearney, W. Newberry, and F. Brewsher, three-quarter backs; E. F. Walker and J. Aitken, half-backs; S. N. Crowther, E. H. Mitchell, W. H. Haxell, N. W. Nooth, B. Wells, E. Von Broun, A. L. Bennett, and A. J. Simmonds, forwards.

Referee : W. Featherstone (Bristol).

THE GAME

The weather was fine and warm, but the attendance was only moderate. Johns kicked off for the City against the sun, the ball bouncing to touch in the visitors' half. Gloucester early broke away with a fine rush, Johns being to the fore, but a visitor got in a lucky flying kick to touch a few yards from the line.

Lennox relieved with a couple of useful kicks, after which Gloucester tried to open out, but the passing broke down. Following up a kick the home forwards tackled Napier, who only got in a feeble punt. The ball was gathered by Berry, who tried to break through, but without success.

A wild pass by Dix lost Gloucester a good slice of ground, and the fault being repeated Lennox sent to Perry, who found touch well. The Londoners, aided by further mistakes by the home players, gained a footing in the City half, where a possible chance presented itself, but it was not accepted. A passing run brought Gloucester out, and Smith following up his kick forced an opponent to send to touch close to the line. From the throw-out Dix secured and planted the ball over the line for a try, which Cook converted.

Resuming the Gloucester forwards made headway from a couple of line-outs, and later Dix gained some 20 yards with a neat punt to touch. Ensuing play was very scrambling, but in the loose a forward picked up and passed to Dix, who dropped for goal, but sent the ball wide.

On the re-start Gloucester tried passing, but Hall muddled and a possible opening was thrown away. Immediately after, from a cross-kick, Dix fielded cleverly, and was through the opposing three-quarters at once. Cleverly doubling the full-back he ran over behind the posts with a very pretty try. Cook, however, failed at goal.

Following the resumption Dix got the ball away neatly, and Hall and Stephens handled in turn. The latter fed Beard at the right moment, but the Second teamer was grandly tackled by Garrett. Dix, with some clever footwork, again gave the visiting defence trouble, and Berry nearly scrambled over.

From the ensuing scrum Dix fed Hall, who foolishly dropped for goal, and missed the ball altogether. The Gloucester forwards rushed over, but only a minor was recorded.

Gloucester continued on the aggressive, and a fine movement, initiated by Dix, gave Beard a chance, but he failed to reach the line. A couple of minutes later Craddock had a splendid opportunity of putting Dix over, but he tried to go through on his own, and being tackled threw the ball wildly right on the line. From the subsequent scrum Gloucester heeled and a series of long passes gave Cook a clear opening, which he accepted, scoring wide out. The game player failed at goal.

Desultory play followed the re-start, and there was a distinctly holiday character about the game. Lennox paid a brief visit to the home end, but Perry sent them back with a lovely touch-finder. The Londoners worked out, and then followed a series of mistakes by the home backs in handling.

One or two nice openings were made, but the ball in each instance was knocked-on in aggravating fashion. Just before the interval Lennox were penalised, and Cook added three points with a lovely kick.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 2 goals (1p), 2 tries
Lennox Nil

Lennox re-started, but the City were soon on the attack, and following a determined forward burst the ball was taken over the line and Wixey credited with a corner try. Cook failed with the goal kick.

The visitors confined play to the home half for a few minutes on the re-start, but Johns led the City in a good rush to mid-field. Here Hall and Dix combined in a pretty effort, but the re-pass was forward. From the next scrum the ball came out to the home backs, and Stephens gathering a bad pass in clever style, cut through and notched one of the best tries of the match. Cook added the goal points.

Lennox resumed, and thanks to good kicking by Walker they got close to the home line. An opening soon followed, and though Perry tackled his man, Crowther managed to plant the ball over the mark. A goal resulted with a fine kick.

Gloucester had the better of subsequent exchanges, but there was absolutely no finish to the attacking movements, and the game at its best was a poor scramble. Dix once tried to creep in at the corner, but he was thrown into touch-in-goal. After this Lennox got well down and had a shot at goal from a penalty, but the kick was a failure.

The game continued to be devoid of interest, both teams playing very scrappy football. Gloucester once got clean away with only Napier to beat, but the players fumbled badly and allowed the visiting custodian to kick to touch.

Lennox kept pluckily at it, and taking advantage of slackness on the part of the home players Kearney secured, and after neat passing Garrett raced over with a good try, which was converted by Brewsher – another fine kick.

Gloucester resumed, and early on an interception by Stephens looked all over for try, but Beard missed a simple transfer with a clean run in. Immediately after there was a clever round of passing by the City backs, and Smith made a gallant effort to score, but Newberry proved too much for him.

RESULT :

Gloucester ... 4 goals (1p), 3 tries (27 points)
Lennox 2 goals (10 points)