

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1908

TO-DAY'S MATCHES

GLOUCESTER v. PLYMOUTH

CITY OPEN IN DEVON

TWO AUSTRALIANS ASSIST PLYMOUTH

CITY IN GRAND FORM

DEVONIANS SOUNDLY BEATEN

For the opening match of the season Gloucester were called upon to make the long journey to Plymouth, but with a good side, and the players very keen, the City had great hopes of recording winning points.

Gordon Vears was unable to accept a place in the forwards, but this was the only change in the team originally selected. The vacancy was filled by Wyburn, one of the best of the Seconds' forwards last season.

Hubert Smith partnered Gent at half-back, and Elliott and Stephens played centre three-quarter to Frank Smith and Hudson respectively.

Plymouth made one or two changes from the side which just managed to beat Stroud the previous week.

The majority of the Gloucester team made the journey overnight, and an invitation was extended to the visitors to join the Plymouth and Devon Albion players in welcoming the Australians, who were due to land at Plymouth on Saturday.

Gloucester. – F. Welshman, back; F. Smith, T. Elliott, J. Stephens, A. Hudson (capt.), three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent, H. Smith, half-backs; W. Johns, D. Hollands, B. Parham, H. Berry, R. Craddock, G. Griffiths, G. Holford, J. Wyburn, forwards.

Plymouth. – Tickle, back; Lieut. Tillard, Knight, Carroll, McCabe, three-quarter backs; Richards, Conybeare, half-backs; Edwards, Robinson, Willcocks, Cummings, Wise, Jones, Moss, Elliott, forwards.

Hoskings was unable to turn out for Plymouth, Tickle playing back and Knight forward instead of Moss. There were not more than 3,000 spectators.

The entrance of half a dozen of the Australian footballers to the ground was the signal for a warm welcome, and two of them, Carroll and McCabe, played for Plymouth at left three-quarter.

Plymouth started operations and gained a footing in the visiting half, but the stay was short, the Gloucester forwards, led by Craddock and Johns, putting in a strong burst. Hudson tried to break through, but Carroll tackled him and McCabe came away, Carroll gaining ground also cleverly.

Just after Plymouth forced two dead balls. Tillard passing back to Tickle the latter was downed before he could clear. Gloucester attacking, F. Smith failed, and Plymouth through Carroll worked back.

Plymouth continued to press. Richards and McCabe interpassed well, Gloucester having to defend, and Elliott (Plymouth) was nearly over, the visitors saving.

Helped by the kick out Gloucester got moving by Gent and H. Smith, and Elliott further improved matters, but Plymouth relieved, and reaching the visitors' line Wise touched down, but was recalled, the pass he received being forward.

Welshman brought relief, and Plymouth were forced back, but a grand dash by the home forwards was finely checked by Welshman, and the visitors got underway. A Plymouth forward kicked into the hands of Elliott who, running beautifully, rounded the home defence and scored, Welshman majorising.

Immediately after F. Smith received following a throw out and dashed over with the second try, the kick failing.

Plymouth pressed after this, and after McCabe had nearly crossed Tillard touched down, the place-kick failing.

McCabe again ran strongly, but Wise failed to accept an easy pass.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester ..... 1 goal 1 try

Plymouth ..... 1 try

Plymouth restarted, and play hovered round the dividing line. Then Gent set his three-quarters moving, Stephens, Elliott, and Smith all handling, the latter finishing a grand movement with a try. No goal resulted.

Gloucester showed splendid form now, but Plymouth dashed away through Tillard, the visiting line being in danger, but Welshman relieved. Plymouth had to defend hard, Gent, Hudson, and Elliott taking a deal of watching.

A burst by the home forwards looked ominous, but Welshman stopped them well, and kicked clear. A free to Plymouth was of little assistance, but the home team maintained a position in the visiting preserves for a while, and Richards passing out, Conybeare, McCabe, and Carroll handled, the last named scoring. The kick failed.

Plymouth continued to attack, but a mark by H. Smith helped his side out. Plymouth got close to the visitors' line by Wise and Edwards, but Gloucester worked out by easy stages. Gent tried to put his backs in motion, but Stephens failed. However, Gloucester made amends for this just after. W. Tickle passed out wide, and H. Smith intercepting crossed with an opportunist try, Welshman majorising.

A few minutes after the visiting vanguard rushed for the line, Tickle being fouled when stopping. The free brought Plymouth welcome relief. Conybeare was injured but resumed. Jones had to retire.

The visitors were certainly holding the advantage now, and following some loose play near the home line Gent dived over with a try, to which Welshman added the extra points.

Plymouth were playing weakly now, and Hudson started away and gave to Gent, who once more placed Plymouth defending. Carroll brought the home team out, and for a time Plymouth did better, but the Gloucester defence was solid until McCabe receiving from Richards, pierced it. No goal resulted.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester .....	3 goals, 2 tries (21 points)
Plymouth .....	3 tries (9 points)

#### REMARKS

Gloucester won on their merits. Fore and aft they were the better team, their forwards being magnificent, and giving the back division plenty of opportunities.

The home team were all at sea with their movements, and were unable to keep up the pace which Gloucester set from the start. Welshman, at back, did grandly, whilst Hudson and Frank Smith worked like Trojans. Gent was prominent at half.

#### GLOUCESTER A v. WHITECROFT

#### CITY SECONDS' SUBSTANTIAL WIN

There was only a small crowd of spectators at Kingsholm to witness this, the opening game of the season. There were several changes in both teams.

Gloucester. – A. H. Bird; J. M. Baldwin, C. Cook, W. Hall, and F. Bloxsome; F. Perry and W. Wotton; A. Hawker (capt.), P. G. Savage, W. Blackford, H. Wixey, C. Westbury, G. Vears, J. Hall, and S. Hayward.

Whitecroft. – F. Védmore; W. Hawkins, W. Royal, and J. Partridge; O. Rigby and E. Hill; C. Baker, W. Wintle, T. Morgan, J. Evans, G. Baker, C. Hopes, G. Williams, and J. Edwards.

Referee : Mr. W. A. Thomas.

Gloucester started, but the opening play was of a kick and rush order, in which Whitecroft had the better of matters. The Seconds heeled once or twice, but the half-back play was faulty, the ball being thrown out very wildly.

Useful kicks by Cook gained ground for the home team, and the forwards combining in a loose rush play was transferred to the Whitecroft end.

Operations, however, continued very scrappy and mistakes in fielding were numerous. Gloucester eventually got very close, and a forward scored, after a capital effort. Hayward landed a good goal.

Resuming, Gloucester at once attacked, and Bloxsome only sent to touch just outside. Whitecroft relieved by good kicks, and Bird fumbling, the Foresters reached the home quarters.

By strong forward play the visitors gave the City a lot of trouble, but there was a lack of finish about their movements. Following up a kick by Baldwin, Cook beat Royal for possession and secured a nice opening, but his pass went astray.

Back Whitecroft came with a desperate forward rush, and matters looked ominous for the Seconds. Off-side, however, checked the visitors, and Gloucester got out of danger by the aid of a penalty.

Hall was prominent in subsequent play with some well-judged kicks, which placed the Seconds beyond the centre. From a line-out Westbury gathered and after a strong burst scored near the posts. Hayward again converted.

There was no immediate improvement in the class of play on the restart, and the forwards monopolised the game. In a scramble the ball got loose, and Wixey gathering galloped home with the third try, which Hayward again converted.

Whitecroft resumed, and by strong forward play, had an equal share of the play. The Seconds' backs had the ball a few times from the scrum, but the centres, Cook especially, tried to do too much and were collared. Bloxsome once made a praiseworthy effort to get through, but was tackled from behind when looking dangerous. Loose rushing by the Forest front took them half the length of the ground, Bird eventually checking them with a flying kick.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A ..... 3 goals  
Whitecroft ..... Nil

The Seconds' team was re-arranged on resuming, Perry playing back, Savage three-quarter, Hall outside half, and Bird forward. Opening play favoured Whitecroft, and following some smart forward work Evans was credited with a try. Védmore failed at goal.

Gloucester played up strongly on the drop-out, some good dribbling by J. Hall giving the City a good position. This was to some extent lost by faulty back play, but was regained again. In the Whitecroft 25 Hawker initiated a bout of passing, which left the ball with W. Hall. With a clever feint Hall completely deceived the opposition and ran over the line and behind the posts with a smart try. Hayward again added the extra points.

Play on the resumption was keenly contested, Whitecroft giving the Seconds some anxious moments. Twice, with strong rushes, the visitors went very close, and were only held up on the line.

A smart bit of work by Savage relieved, and a good opening presented itself, but Wixey tried to pick up and knocked on.

After this Gloucester forced a minor, and a little later a possible try was thrown away through a badly-judged pass. Whitecroft took up the running subsequently, but the play was more strenuous than clever, and little of incident occurred.

After a lengthy spell of even play the Foresters set up a hot attack, but they were beaten off. The Seconds rushed to the centre, and then following a sharp bit of loose footwork Wixey gathered and sent Savage over behind the posts. The goal-kick by Hayward was again successful.

Nothing further was done, though just before the close Whitecroft nearly scored as the result of a mistake in fielding by Savage.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester A .....	5 goals (25 points)
Whitecroft .....	1 try (3 points)

#### REMARKS

The Seconds won by a substantial margin in points, but territorially Whitecroft had far more of the game than the score indicates. Play throughout was of a very moderate standard, though keenly contested.

The Forest forwards were a powerful lot, and in the loose they put in a lot of hard work. Cleverness and method, however, were lacking.

The City eight held out well, and Hawker, J. Hall and Wixey were very prominent. Behind the scrums the visitors' tackling was exceptionally close and sure, Royal being to the fore in this respect.

Gloucester were weak at half-back, due to the absence of Dix, who we hear has taken offence at not being selected for the premiers.

W. Hall was the pick of the backs, but did not get many opportunities. Baldwin generally did all that was required of him, but just before the end he had to retire with an injured shoulder.

JC