

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1908

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. NORTHAMPTON

NORTHAMPTON'S FIRST DEFEAT

Owing to the clashing of the Devon match with this important fixture Gloucester had to play practically half reserves at Northampton. Behind the scrum especially the City were seriously weakened, Welshman alone remaining of the regular backs.

Northampton held an unbeaten record, and unless the unexpected happened Gloucester were likely to get a few points notched against them to-day.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – F. Welshman, back; J. M. Baldwin, J. Hamblin, W. Hall, A. Pegler, three-quarter backs; H. Smith, W. Dix, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), B. Parham, G. Griffiths, D. Holland, F. Pegler, S. Hayward, G. Holford, J. Wyburn, forwards.

Northampton. – C. Leigh, back; E. R. Mobbs (capt.), J. N. Beasley, F. Coles, E. C. Cook, three-quarter backs; T. H. Preston, R. Harrison, half-backs; A. Chalmers, P. Fussell, L. Skempton, A. W. Skempton, E. W. White, J. Burch, H. Burke, W. Welch, forwards.

THE GAME

There were 6,000 spectators. The homesters included J. Warren and Storrar for Burch and White. Northampton started and attacked. Good passing by Gloucester ended in A. Pegler being pushed into touch.

A mark kick taken by Welshman gained ground, and Gloucester forced a dead ball. Parham and Hall played cleverly, and A. Pegler ran finely and placed Gloucester in a capital position. Smart forward play ended in F. Peglar scoring a well-worked-for try, Welshman failing with the goal kick.

Gloucester, with the wind favouring them, kept up the pressure. Coles dribbled to the Gloucester back, but the defence was sure. The Northampton passing broke down, and useful touch kicking relieved the pressure for Gloucester. Tough work in mid-field was followed by Dix getting over, but a free was awarded to Northampton for off-side.

Play continued in Northampton's quarters, and after the home forwards broke away, Welshman sent them back. Gloucester were penalised, and Coles' kick gained a good deal of ground. The game continued fast. Northampton now had more of the game and pressed for a brief period. Pretty work by the Gloucester halves followed, Smith being always prominent.

Mobbs with a run and punt caused the first real pressure on the Gloucester citadel, the visitors touching down. Play then settled down again at mid-field. Welshman saved well in the face of a fierce attack. Harrison, Leigh, and Mobbs were in turn effectively tackled, and Smith with well-judged touch-kicking caused a line-out close to the home goal-line. A resolute resistance was offered, and Mobbs came away in grand style and with another burst immediately afterwards he caused the Gloucester defence great anxiety.

The Gloucester tackling and kicking was, however, excellent, and Mobbs was now wonderfully well watched. Cook and Warren were busy, and Northampton were now pressing. Mobbs and Beasley combined finely, and Northampton were attacking briskly when half-time was called, with Gloucester enjoying a well-earned lead by three points.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 try
Northampton Nil

The second half opened at a great pace, Beasley making a splendid run through nearly all the opposition. Northampton were playing with much dash and their backs took a lot of holding. Mobbs, who received pressing attention, retired for repair to his costume.

Long kicking by Gloucester ended in Leigh being held in possession. Mobbs ran back strongly, but within a minute a bad mistake by Warren enabled Gloucester to get within five yards of the home goal-line. Hot scrummaging went on, the home forwards at length dribbling away. Northampton played below form, the passing being wild, and Gloucester forced a touchdown.

Coles restarted with a huge kick, which Hamblin effectively replied to. The Gloucester left wing played brilliantly. A. Pegler made a fine run, and then Leigh saved with difficulty from Baldwin. The ball immediately after went dead again. Baldwin shook off Mobbs and got the ball away under difficulties. When the ball was sent over the stand a new one was obtained.

A free to Northampton brought relief. Baldwin stopped a rush and Mobbs was grandly bowled over. A kick by Northampton was charged down, and Smith scored at the corner. Welshman made a fine but unsuccessful kick at goal. After neat passing Parham scored the third try very cleverly, and Welshman goaled.

The homesters now made desperate efforts to reduce the lead, passing finely and running with great dash. Gloucester's defence, however, was for the time equal to all calls. Northampton missed a ridiculously easy opening by over-anxiety, Welshman having lost the ball. The ball was smartly recovered, and Gloucester attacked and once got over, but the ball had to go back.

A stoppage occurred, Parham being hurt, but he quickly resumed. Mobbs made a grand run, Smith pulling him down close to home. Passing by Coles, Mobbs, and Welch ended in the last-named scoring just on time. The goal kick failed. The game ended amid great excitement.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal, 2 tries (11 points)

Northampton 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

Gloucester won on their merits. Their quick following up and tackling quite put the homesters off their game, and they pressed fully three-fourths of the game.

The forwards, well led by Vears and Parham, controlled the scrums and were good in the loose. Smith played a great game at half. The three-quarters defended brilliantly, and passed well on occasions. Welshman was in fine form.

Northampton never settled down, and were below par. Leigh, Beasley, Harrison, and Welch were the best of the side.

JC