

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1908

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CLIFTON

CITY WIN COMFORTABLY

Gloucester were seriously weakened for this league engagement at Clifton, seven of the regular players appearing for the county against Somerset at Kingsholm. Clifton also had E. F. Eberle away similarly engaged. Alec Lewis, of the Old Boys, was given a trial for the City at centre three-quarter, the other vacancies being filled from the Reserves.

Gloucester. – C. Cook, back; A. Pegler, J. Hamblin, Alec Lewis, J. M. Baldwin, three-quarter backs; H. Smith, W. Dix, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), B. Parham, G. Griffiths, D. Hollands, G. Holford, J. Wyburn, A. Hawker, R. Craddock, forwards.

Clifton. – E. Briggs, back; V. F. Eberle, A. L. Weir, T. H. Butler, A. Gardiner, three-quarter backs; R. Witchell, C. W. Marsden, half-backs; A. J. Gardner, E. J. C. Higham, R. Fedden, F. T. Boucher, J. A. Brown, R. R. Yolland, P. L. Galland, J. H. Savory, forwards.

Gardner started for Clifton, who carried the first scrum, Marsden breaking through cleverly and sending to his backs, who took play to the Gloucester 25. Pegler relieved with a long kick, Weir being tackled in possession.

Clifton again got off in the loose, but a free gained little ground, Cook replying with a fine touch-finder. Baldwin and Hamblin tried hard on the left wing, and then Gloucester almost scored through Hamblin, Victor Eberle tackling too high, but the Gloucestrian slipped.

Two touch kicks cleared the home lines, Clifton reaching the centre. Baldwin was in fine form, Clifton only just saving a try by this player. Gloucester continually carried the scrums, but the ball was extremely greasy. Gaining possession near the Clifton line, Pegler crossed in the corner. Cook kicked a lovely goal.

Gloucester had all the play save for Clifton's opening rush, the game being fairly open considering. Clifton gained the Gloucester line, and Welsby[*sic*] just failed with a penalty. Gardner was prominent, but Dix made his mark. Clifton nearly scored through a cross-kick by Butler, Cook saving cleverly before Gardner could gain possession. Through Gardner and Marsden trying to make a mark together Dix crossed with a soft try, Cook converting.

Clifton had two promising bursts, but Cook cleared well, and then Weir, who was playing in place of Briggs, stopped a rush by the Gloucester forwards. Clifton badly missed Ellison Eberle's tackling. Higham put in a great run half the length of the field.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	2 goals
Clifton	Nil

Vears restarted, play opening in the Clifton half, Baldwin and Hamblin being early prominent. In a long kicking duel, Cook came out on top, Gloucester maintaining the pressure.

Clifton at last carried a scrum, but the passing was poor. The backs were playing poorly, but the forwards stuck to their task well. However, the home side never really looked dangerous until Victor Eberle got possession, and, beating Cook well, scored, Welsby[*sic*] converting.

Five points only separating the teams, play became fast, the Cliftonians playing pluckily against a heavier side. Their tackling continued to be weak, and Baldwin made ground on the left wing before being grounded by Gardner.

Eberle was again prominent, and their forwards were conspicuous in the loose. Cook carried the ball over the line, and from the ensuing scrum things looked bad for Gloucester, until Baldwin got off. Victor Eberle received, and Gardiner experienced bad luck through falling. Hollands was given an easy try between the posts, but Cook badly failed to convert.

The home forwards came down the field, but Cook stopped their progress, and Hamblin and Baldwin were once more in evidence, Wear saving well under difficulties. Butler regained the lost ground, and Eberle tackled Lewis before he could get clear. From the next scrum Clifton got the ball, Gardiner scoring and Welsby[*sic*] failing.

Hollands and Smith scored, Cook failing.

RESULT :

Gloucester 19 points
Clifton 8 points

REMARKS

The game was a splendid one considering the state of the teams. Gloucester deserved to win, but not by so many points. Baldwin was the best of the three-quarters, Hamblin also doing well. Cook was very safe. The visiting pack carried nearly all the scrums, Dix and Smith doing well in setting the backs off smartly.

Clifton badly missed Ellison Eberle's example in tackling. Higham and Gardner were prominent in the pack, and Victor Eberle and Marsden of the backs. Weir was slow. Gloucester deserve congratulations.