

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1908

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. STROUD

FRIENDLY GAME ON A FROZEN GROUND

GLOUCESTER EASY WINNERS

This was a return League match, but owing to the hardness of the Kingsholm ground it was agreed to play a friendly only. The match attracted only a poor crowd of spectators. Stroud fielded a weak team.

Gloucester. – F. Welshman; F. Smith, J. Hamblin, W. Hall, and A. Pegler; J. Stephens and W. Dix; G. Vears (capt.), W. Johns, H. Perry, B. Parham, G. Griffiths, J. Wyburn, D. Hollands, and G. Holford.

Stroud. – C. King; W. Chambers, F. Smith, A. Wynberg, and W. Bingle; W. Jones and J. Wathern; J. Merchant, F. Whittaker, S. Wynberg, M. Wynberg, E. Wheatley, S. Bayliss, J. Sessions, and B. Hathaway.

Referee : Mr. J. Vowles (Bristol).

Stroud kicked off, and opening play was contested at midfield. Jones early gained ground with a smart kick to touch, but Welshman replied finely to the Stroud 25. The visitors, by intercepting, got back, but were stopped just inside the home half. Here the City half-backs opened out cleverly, and Frank Smith brought off a tricky run, but tried to do too much and was collared from behind.

In some loose play Holford fielded from a kick by an opponent, and after handing off an opponent he passed to Hollands, who gave King the "dummy" and went over the line with the first try. Welshman failed at goal.

Resuming, operations were fought out in the Stroud half until a flying kick by Jones landed the ball in the Gloucester half. Berry, with a sharp dash, quickly came away, and passing by the home backs looked promising. Frank Smith took a drop for goal, but the ball went wide. Dix and Pegler, however, took the ball over, but the former was just beaten in the touch for a try. Stroud worked out to the 25, where Parham picked up, and after Hall had cut out a fine opening Hamblin crossed smartly. The goal-kick again failed.

Subsequent play was all in favour of Gloucester, whose backs were altogether too clever for the opposition. After Stephens had made a pretty run, Dix followed suit, and following clever exchanges Stephens scored, no goal resulting.

Stroud played up pluckily on the restart, and a forward, unmarked in a line-out, ran clear and punted over Welshman's head. The City, however, got back and saved, but just afterwards Gloucester had to concede a minor. Subsequently Gloucester had all the play again, but though getting several chances they failed to increase their score before the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 3 tries
Stroud Nil

Vears restarted, and Gloucester early had a chance from a weak return by King. Johns, however, missed the ball, and though Berry recovered and tried to break away he was unsuccessful. The ground and ball were now very treacherous, and correct football was rendered very difficult. However, the City players triumphed over the conditions, and a lovely round of passing, in which Dix, Stephens, Hamblin, Hall and F. Smith took part, ended in the latter scoring easily. Welshman this time converted.

Directly after the restart Dix initiated a smart move, but Stephens' pass went astray. Pegler and Hamblin when through with a dribble and took the ball over the line, but only a minor was given.

Gloucester had the game pretty much to themselves, and had the conditions been at all favourable they would have scored freely. Another passing bout along the whole line left the ball with Pegler, but the wing man could not beat the defence.

Next the home forwards got away with an irresistible rush, but something went wrong just outside the line, and Hollands, who had crossed, was called back.

Gloucester continued busily on the aggressive, and after several narrow escapes Dix tricked the defence and notched another try, which went unconverted. Subsequent play was of little interest, and nothing further was scored.

RESULT :

Gloucester ... 1 goal, 4 tries (17 points)
Stroud Nil

REMARKS

The ground was too hard for serious football, and the frozen snow on the surface made it very dangerous for the players. Fortunately no serious accident occurred, but it was very questionable if the match was worth the risks the men took.

Short time was played, and the game requires little comment. Gloucester were easily the better side at all points, and under the conditions the win was satisfactory enough.

GLOUCESTER A v. WEST END

A POINTLESS DRAW

At Kingsholm on Monday, before a moderate company. The ground was covered with snow and very hard in places, and it was only after a lengthy consultation that the match was played. The Seconds had several changes from the side which beat the Old Boys on Saturday.

Gloucester A. – D. Cook; J. Beard, H. Barnes, R. Minahan, and H. Hughes; Hubert Smith and L. Rudge; A. Hawker (captain), R. Bird, H. Aston, R. Kirby, W. Blackford, W. Nelmes, W. Ramstedt, and S. Smart.

West End. – T. Miller; Harry Smith, E. Hall (capt.), E. Butler, and F. Bloxsome; A. Hall and E. Wotton; J. Lane, W. Dovey, C. Westbury, H. Watts, F. Ewers, W. Langford, J. Melhuish, and Wheeler.

West End started, and play opened very quietly, the players being very chary at running any risks. By good kicking the West End gained a footing in their opponents' half, where Wotton opened out, but the passing went astray. A strong burst by Lane from a throw-out placed the Seconds' lines in danger, but a long punt brought the game out to more favourable quarters. Bloxsome, however, forced a minor with a fruitless drop at goal.

Subsequent operations were fairly even, but very tame, consisting mainly of forward play and touch-kicking. At length Beard and Hubert Smith, with a nice dribble, got close to the West End line, where Miller saved by running to touch. The Seconds had a good chance now, and Barnes marked in a favourable position, but the goal-kick failed.

Harry Smith next saved from a dangerous rush of the home men, and later the West End reached the centre. The Seconds occasionally tried passing, but the players could not hold the slippery ball. A well-judged kick by Albert Hall gave the West End the advantage, but they were quickly beaten back, and at the interval the game was near the centre.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A Nil
West End Nil

Play in the second half was a repetition of the opening stages, and was exceedingly tame. Scrums and lines-out occurred with monotonous regularity, and there was very little of interest. Each end was visited in turn, but no tangible point was recorded.

Just before the end the West End backs took part in a pretty bout of passing – the best seen during the game – and a score seemed probable. Bloxsome, on the wing, repassed to Butler, but the latter going straight, he was well collared from behind, and [2 or 3 words unreadable] saved.

RESULT :

Gloucester A Nil
West End Nil

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