

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1909

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. COVENTRY

CITY'S DISORGANISED SIDE

"A GLORIOUS GAME"

GLOUCESTER BEATEN BY A POINT

Gloucester had a very disorganised side in the field at Coventry, half the team being reserves. The absentees were Gordon Vears, Johns, Gent, Berry, F. Smith, Hollands, Wyburn, and G. Griffiths – six forwards and two backs. Four of the players are on the injured list, Johns was at Leicester playing for England, whilst Gent and Berry could not make the journey.

Coventry, who were beaten in the first match at Kingsholm by 14 points to nil, re-arranged their back division owing to the absence of Dakin and Gilbert, Elton going centre three-quarter and J. Burgess coming in for Gilbert.

Thomas, of Swansea District Club, assisted at stand-off half. The only other player of note away was J. Davey, the Cornish half-back, who, however, has rarely assisted the club this season.

Up to to-day's match Coventry had won 16 out of 22 matches played, five being lost and one drawn, and had scored 392 points to 79.

Gloucester. – C, Cook, back; J. M. Baldwin, W. Hall, F. Welshman, Hubert Smith, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent, J. Stephens, half-backs; B. Parham, H. Berry, G. Holford, G. Griffiths, A. Hawker, J. Nelmes, J. Hall, R. Craddock, forwards.

Coventry. – J. C. M. Dyke, back; H. Wareham, A. Elton, E. Goodman, J. Burgess, three-quarter backs; H. Laxon, –. Thomas, half-backs; W. L. Oldham, J. P. Oldham, A. P. Mosby, J. Tomes, L. F. S. Beaver, E. Hutt, W. Hutt, W. F. Dalton, forwards.

Referee : Mr. A. O. Jones.

THE GAME

The ground was full of frost with a greasy surface. The wind was bitterly cold, fortunately somewhat tempered by bright sunshine. There was a sensational start. Gloucester made a nice return to Coventry's opening, but were immediately forced back by hard forward play from the first scrum. Thomas cleared, and the ball went all along the three-quarter line to Goodman on the left, and he ran in, Cook getting to him a fraction too late. Dyke failed at goal. Thus within three minutes Coventry were three points ahead.

Gloucester made a splendid dash on re-starting. Coventry replied vigorously, and again their outside got moving, Welshman effecting a brilliant save near the line. Smith relieved the danger with a plucky run and kick, to which Dyke answered with a long touch-finder. Coventry were penalised for feet up, and again Dyke got in an effective return. Wild kicking in loose forward play lost ground for the visitors until W. Hall made a pretty clearance with a run to the centre of the field.

In the ensuing forward battle the visitors gained possession, and Stephens set his threes in motion, only to meet with sound collaring. Gloucester showed great cleverness in the next attack, W. Hall feinting a pass to Pegler, but going on and scoring a smart try. Welshman converted with a magnificent kick, putting the visitors two points ahead.

Coventry, with a try by J. P. Oldham from a scrum, took the lead again, though the visitors doubted the legality of the decision.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Coventry	2 tries
Gloucester	1 goal

Gloucester, crossing over, made a promising attack, ending in the home side touching down. With the game still in full swing the home forwards asserted their superiority, and E. Hutt charging the ball down put his side in a good position. Goodman secured and ran across, passing to Mosby, who gave to Wareham on the right wing. W. Hall made a plucky attempt to save, but the Coventry man just got the ball down, Hall being hurt in tackling, and he had to leave the field for a short time. Coventry's third place-kick by Dyke was unproductive.

Gloucester next came in for severe pressure, and Welshman and Smith were repeatedly called upon to save. With startling suddenness Gloucester swept from defence to a successful attack, Pegler breaking away with a long run, ending with a well-timed pass to H. Smith, who completed the distance. The extra points were narrowly missed, leaving Gloucester only one point behind.

Coventry had a bad time during the next few minutes and struggled desperately to keep their slight lead. Dix and Stephens made a fine opening, but Pegler knocked on. A rousing effort by the home backs saw Wareham nearly in, W. Hall and Cook defending grandly.

Cook immediately afterwards stopped Goodman and prevented an apparently certain try. The home side continued to exert themselves, and excitement grew tremendously, during which Gloucester touched down.

From this breather W. Hall made headway, and was only held up by the home full back. Dyke made a long shot from a penalty, the ball just going outside.

The Gloucester defence was put under a severe strain, and Welshman had a hard time in stemming the advancing forwards. In the closing five minutes Gloucester recovered, and their backs made some fine runs, W. Hall being almost through when pushed into touch.

RESULT :

Coventry 3 tries (9 points)
Gloucester 1 goal 1 try (8 points)

REMARKS

Our Coventry correspondent says it was a glorious game, full of variety from start to finish. The scoring pendulum swung from side to side, each holding the lead in turn. The visitors in the closing few minutes threatened to wipe off their single point defeat. Coventry held the advantage all through in forward work, especially in the loose, some of their bursts being superb. Gloucester had very clever backs, and always threatened danger when moving. Coventry deserved their hard-earned victory, but Gloucester proved a tough tussle.

GLOUCESTER A v. MORELAND'S EXCELSIOR

CITY SECONDS WIN A POOR GAME

Played at Kingsholm before a few hundred spectators. Owing to the heavy call on the Reserves by the premiers there were a number of new faces in the ranks of the A team, but a useful side fielded.

Gloucester A. – H. Ellis; Harry Smith, H. Barnes, J. Hamblin, and J. Beard; E. Wotton and W. Egerton; H. Vickeridge, H. Aston, R. Bird, W. Blackford, A. Hatton, F. Welshman, H. Kirby, and C. Westbury.

Moreland's. – H. Hancock; F. Long, O. Rigby, B. Worlock, and A. Broady, J. Norman and S. Ewers; J. Price (captain), W. Langford, D. Bretherton, W. Jackson, G. Richardson, T. Presdea, A. Sheppard, and C. Jones.

Play opened tamely at the centre until a good rush by Moreland's forwards took them to the home 25. Gloucester quickly worked out, and by useful footwork reached the other end. Each side in turn attempted to open out, but the passing broke down. Neat combination between Egerton, Hamblin and Beard looked promising for the Seconds, but the inside pass was spoiled.

Moreland's were doing well in the scrums, and Norman, with some touch kicks gave them a position at midfield. A capital forward burst further improved matters, but Ellis regained some of the ground for the seconds with a good touch-finder.

A free to Gloucester put them well inside Moreland's half, where the home backs indulged in some neat exchanges. Beard re-passed to Hamblin, but the latter was immediately collared. From the next scrum Gloucester again got the ball out and Barnes cutting through gave Harry Smith an easy try. The goal kick failed.

Resuming, the Seconds at once pressed, and nearly scored again, a knock on spoiling a certain try. Subsequent play was very scrambling, in which Moreland's quite held their own, especially forward. Neither side, however, got dangerous, and the interval arrived with no further scoring.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A 1 try
Moreland's Nil

Blackford re-started for Gloucester, who through wild passing from a line-out lost a good slice of ground. A passing bout took the Seconds back, and then in the open Kirby punted high and followed up. Securing the ball again, he ran some 20 yards and then yielded to Hamlin, who fed Barnes for the latter to score a good try. The place-kick failed.

Moreland's showed up strongly after this reverse, the forwards doing good work. Still the play generally was very tame, and little cleverness was displayed.

A smart move by Moreland's gave the visitors a good opening, and a forward made a dash for the line, but he was upset a couple of yards outside. The Seconds cleared from a dangerous position through Egerton, but the matchmakers worked back, the forwards playing a worrying game.

A break away from a line-out enabled Gloucester to reach midfield, where Worlock saved. Moreland's changed the venue with a sharp dash, and the Seconds were hotly pressed. There was a slight delay owing to a visitor being injured.

When the game was continued Moreland's attacked strongly, and Worlock looked a likely scorer, but was collared a dozen yards from the line.

Moreland's continued to have the better of the exchanges, but their attacks lacked finish. Gloucester eventually relieved, and H. Smith cross-kicking to his forwards the Seconds had a good chance. A series of exchanges followed, ending in a try far out. No goal resulted.

Gloucester played up better after this, and should have scored again, but the passing was too slow. Shortly afterwards Moreland's had to concede a minor.

The visitors made a brief visit to the Gloucester end, but the Seconds' backs returned with a passing run. Smith ran up to Hancock and re-passed, but Hamblin was pulled down directly he received. In the closing stages Moreland's had rather the best of matters, but could not score.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 3 tries (9 points)
Moreland's Nil

REMARKS

Moreland's made a plucky fight, and did not deserved to be beaten by 9 points. It was a poor sort of game, however, and the form generally was very moderate. For a small lot the visiting forwards did extremely well, being especially good in loose footwork. The Gloucester backs did one or two good bits of passing, but for the most part the handling was too slow.