

THE CITIZEN
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1909

FOOTBALL
GLOUCESTER v. LEICESTER
THE CITIZENS OUTPLAYED

For the return match with Leicester, who have done big things at home this season against the crack Welsh teams, Gloucester were short of Gordon Vears and Stephens. The acting captain could not get away from business, and Stephens was prevented from making the journey owing to the illness of his wife.

Though the City had every confidence of putting up a keen fight, the odds were in favour of the Midlanders reversing the result of the first meeting at Kingsholm, when Gloucester won by 13 points to 3.

There were four changes in the Leicester team, Smith and Lawrie (three-quarters) being replaced by E. Booth, New Zealander, and H. Pearce, and Hobbs and Goodrich, forward, by T. Hopkins and J. C. Burdett.

Gloucester. — C. Cook, back; F. Smith, W. Hall, F. Welshman, J. M. Baldwin, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent, H. Smith, half-backs; W. Johns (capt.), H. Berry, B. Parham, G. Griffiths, G. Holford, J. Wyburn, J. Hall, S. Hayward, forwards.

Leicester. — E. J. Jackett, back; P. Lawrie, E. Booth, K. M. B. Wood, H. Pearce, three-quarter backs; J. R. Watson, G. W. Wood, half-backs; S. Penny, T. Hopkins, J. C. Burdett, T. Hogarth, A. Mills, G. Middleton, G. Greasley, A. S. McIntyre, forwards.

Referee : Mr. Abbott, London.

THE GAME

The weather was wintery, but the ground having been covered was in good condition. Leicester kicked off, and early on Welshman effected a clever save and relief in the face of severe pressure. The Midlanders attacked with strong forward play, and a bout of passing saw Pearce only tackled ten yards outside. Leicester got very close, and from a scrum the ball was taken over and Middleton scored in less than five minutes. Jackett landed a good goal.

Gloucester on the re-start gained a footing in their opponents 25, but they were immediately beaten back with fine footwork. Clever combination by the Leicester backs put the City on the defence, and weak tackling nearly let Lawrie in. Gloucester continued to be outplayed, and Booth, with a sharp twist, was only stopped in time. Keeping up a sharp attack Leicester dribbled over the line. Cook tried to clear, but kicked straight to Watson, who put Hogarth over near the posts. Jackett again converted, giving Leicester the substantial lead of ten points.

After this reverse Gloucester did better, Johns being prominent. Hall forced a minor with a fruitless drop at goal, and after this H. Smith, with a smart effort, put Gloucester well down. The City just missed a score, and two minutes later F. Smith was tackled just outside.

Gloucester just now were all over their opponents, but lacked penetrating power, one or two good chances being missed. Welshman just missed landing a penalty goal, and after this Leicester took up the running, again forcing a minor. From the drop-out McIntyre fielded and beating a Gloucester man cheaply, ran clean to Cook and passed to G. Wood who scored easily. Jackett failed with the place kick.

Gloucester had another bad ten minutes subsequently, Leicester being altogether too smart for them. McIntyre, unmarked in a line-out, gave Hopkins the fourth try, and immediately after the re-start H. Lawrie dropped a lovely goal, making twenty points to nil.

Playing lively football, Leicester fairly demoralised the City, who had several narrow escapes. At length Gloucester pulled themselves together, and being in a favourable position Frank Smith dropped a neat goal.

On resumption, Booth made a great run for the home team, but succumbed to a good tackle by Parham a few yards from the line, and Cook relieved.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Leicester	20 points
Gloucester	4 points

Johns re-started, and opening play was evenly contested. From a clever cross-kick by Baldwin, Johns gathered and Gloucester had an open goal, but Hubert Smith passed instead of going straight for the line, and a certain try was lost. In the next minute, however, Cook dropped a beautiful long range goal from a kick out by Jackett.

Re-starting, Gloucester held them for a few minutes, but H. Lawrie ran brilliantly, and a try was only lost through a faulty transfer. The City cleared from a dangerous [word, words unreadable] by H. Smith lost ground. Leicester rushed strongly, and the visitors were hotly pressed. The defence, however, held out. From the home half Frank Smith sneaked an opponent's pass and ran clear to Jackett. A nice pass to Berry followed and the forward, though hotly pressed, raced over from half-way with a fine try. Cook failed to goal.

The game continued very fast, and the ball was given plenty of air. Passing by Leicester was checked, but a loose forward rush proved too much for Gloucester and Penny went over in a scramble. The place kick failed.

The Gloucester forwards showed up well in subsequent play, but off-side by Berry stopped them. Then, from a long kick over the line by Baldwin, Jackett touched down.

Play at times was very keen, both teams working vigorously. H. Lawrie brought off another grand dodgy run, which placed his side in the Gloucester half. The City, however, came away with a passing run, Parham and the two Smiths being prominent. Hubert was well tackled by Booth when looking dangerous. From a penalty Cook found touch in the Leicester 25, but from here the home forwards dribbled right away. Hand to hand passing followed, and Gloucester only saved a yard from the line. The City worked out of danger with useful kicks, but Booth sent them back, and ensuing play was fought out in the Gloucester half. Brilliant passing by Leicester yielded a try to H. Lawrie, who proved very difficult to stop.

On the other wing Pearce gave trouble, and then twice in quick succession Gloucester just saved their lines. In the closing [word/words unreadable] Leicester did all the pressing, and Gloucester had a very warm time. From a penalty McIntyre had a shot for goal, but the ball went wide of the posts and the City touched down. This was the last item of interest.

RESULT :

Leicester	23 points
Gloucester	11 points

REMARKS

Gloucester redeemed themselves somewhat in the second half, but the whole showing of the City was disappointing; indeed, at the outset the visitors appeared dead out of it. The forwards were outplayed, and the backs could not cope with the pace and cleverness of the Leicester backs. When the City did get chances they failed to utilize them, the players losing their heads badly at critical moments.

Play was exceptionally fast, and brilliant running and passing were shown by the Leicester backs. The Gloucester tackling for the most part was wretchedly weak, and the men failed time after time to go down to the ball. Altogether it was the weakest display we have seen the Gloucester team give for a very long time.

Forward, Gloucester occasionally put in some good rushes, and Johns, Hayward, Berry, and Parham worked hard, but the pack as a whole were outclassed. Gent put in a lot of useful work, but the three-quarters were completely out of it with their opponents, all of whom played fine football. Cook played capitally at full back, and Jackett was in his best form for Leicester.

GLOUCESTER A. v. STROUD ATHLETIC HOMESTERS WIN AT KINGSHOLM

To fill an empty date a guarantee match was arranged with Stroud Athletic. The visitors arrived late, and there was only a small attendance when the teams lined out as follows : –

Gloucester A. – H. Hancock; A. Pegler, J. Hamblin, H. Barnes, and H. Day; W. Dix and W. Egerton; A. Hawker (capt.), F. Pegler, H. Craddock, F. Welshman, H. Aston, W. Nelmes, Dave Hollands, and R. Bird.

Stroud Athletic. – G. H. James; A. Harrison, W. Harrington, W. Chambers, and M. Shane (capt.); H. Oldmeadow and A. Smart; F. Whittaker, W. Patten, S. Wynberg, M. Wynberg, J. Wathern, D. Goldstein, R. Kirby, and Joe Sessions.

Stroud Athletic defended the Kingsholm end, and in less than a minute Gloucester got going, and Hawker sending out a wide pass at the centre set the three-quarters in motion. There were two or three good passes, and Barnes ran in with a good try, which was not improved upon.

The game travelled up and down the field at a fast pace, but there was not much science shown. Gloucester carried the game well into Stroud's quarter again and Craddock, receiving from Hawker, dropped a neat goal.

Stroud worked down after this, and an exchange of kicks left the game in the Gloucester 25. Stroud were penalised, and Hawker found touch at the centre with a big kick. Hamblin gained further ground with a good kick, and Gloucester with a good rush were again dangerous, but the Stroud front worked out. From a penalty against Stroud an exchange of kicks followed, leaving play in Stroud's 25. The visitors were again penalised, and Egerton had a shot for goal, but it went outside.

Smart then cut away for Stroud and kicked, gaining a nice slice of ground. Stroud, however, were again penalised for off-side, and Hawker centred play with a big touch kick. Stroud marked, but the centre remained the venue. Here Stroud obtained a free, and Hancock being collared in possession Stroud got down well. Succeeding play was scrambling, however, and very little headway was made.

Aided by a couple of frees Stroud kept play at the centre, where Dix was upset in attempting to cut through. Gloucester gradually worked up, however, but Dix was penalised for not putting in straight, and Stroud kicked out. Day returned, and once more the game waged in neutral territory.

Barnes had what looked like a clear run through, but hesitated and a golden chance was thrown away. Stroud worked out of danger. Then Gloucester got away again, but Hamblin was impeded, and only a touchdown resulted. Gloucester were quickly at work again, and Dix and Bird narrowly missed getting over the coveted mark. Stroud were penalised almost on the line, but Barnes' kick did not reach.

Craddock muddled a long kick by Stroud, and the visitors attacked. A forward, however, essayed a drop instead of opening out, and nothing was gained. Frees fell frequently to both sides, but there was not much in it. Eventually Gloucester, for whom Dix was putting in a lot of tricky work, worked up to Stroud's 25, where the game was at the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A	1 goal (d), 1 try
Stroud Athletic	Nil

Gloucester were quickly pressing on the re-start, and Barnes and Hamblin early had a chance, but Barnes passed wide instead of feeding the wing man, and the movement was checked. The play was a bit scrambling for a time, and Barnes was injured in the leg and had to come off the field.

Stroud were penalised for off-side at the centre, but the exchange of kicks left Stroud with a slight advantage. Barnes was able to resume. The ball got loose and Harrison, kicking across, gave his forwards a chance. One of them dashed up, and taking the ball over the line was credited with a try near the posts, but it was a question whether he was not off-side. No goal resulted.

A moment later, by keen following up, Stroud had another chance, and Shane gathering the ball on the run got over in the corner. There was no goal.

The game rested at the centre for some time, and then the Gloucester forwards heeled nicely, but Egerton held too long with all his three-quarters waiting. A fine kick by Hancock, who followed up and collared James in possession gave Gloucester a good footing in the Stroud 25, but the visitors with kick and rush worked out of danger.

A pretty bit of work by Dix and Hollands gained Gloucester a nice slice of ground, but when they got the ball out they muddled the passing badly. Hancock returned well, once under difficulties, and then Egerton got away, but he again held on too long.

Gloucester worked down, but the game was very scrambling, and with the line at their mercy the home men failed several times to profit by obvious openings. After some scrambling play Gloucester worked into a favourable position, and Dix dribbling over from a scrum, Nelmes touched down and scored. Barnes goaled with a good kick.

Gloucester had the better of the concluding stages, and just before the end Hamblin scored in the corner after a good run. There was no goal.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 2 goals (1d) 2 tries (15 points)
Stroud Athletic 2 tries (6 points)

REMARKS

It was a poor, scrambling game to watch, with very little class football in it. Gloucester had many openings, which they failed to take advantage of or they might materially have added to their score. The visitors played a bustling game distinguished for keen following up.

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