

## THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1909

### FOOTBALL

#### CITY OUTCLASSED BY LEICESTER

Gloucester had little prospect of beating Leicester on Saturday, but on the other hand no one anticipated the City would cut up so badly. There was no mistaking the immense superiority of the Midlanders. Finding their best form right from the kick off the "Tigers" fairly overwhelmed the Gloucester men in the first twenty minutes, and before the game was a quarter through the City were hopelessly in arrears.

Out-manœuvred forward, and clean beaten in pace, cleverness, and combination behind, Gloucester were outclassed – there is no other word for it – and though the City redeemed themselves somewhat in the second half, one is forced to admit that on the day's play Leicester were good value for every point they scored, and in every way thoroughly deserved their handsome victory.

The only man on the Gloucester side who really held his own was Cook, at full back. Jackett played a beautiful game – though here it may be pointed out the visitors, by aimless kicking into the open, played into the International's hands time after time – but the young Gloucestrian suffered little in comparison with the International. Cook's fielding of the ball was an especial feature, and his kicking generally was of good length and direction. The City custodian further distinguished himself by dropping a goal from well outside the 25 flag.

The Gloucester three-quarters were simply not in it with their rivals. Frank Smith made a couple of smart runs, but the tackling of the quartette was feeble in the extreme. In this connection, too, the forwards were equally ineffective, the men repeatedly going for an opponent too high or making a one-handed grab.

Rarely indeed have we seen the City team run through so easily; on one occasion a Leicester forward actually went through the whole side on receiving a drop out, and put a colleague over with a try !

Though without two of their best forwards (Kewney and Hobbs), Leicester fielded a grand pack, who worked with splendid resolution, and put any amount of devil into their play. In the scrums they generally controlled the ball, and Watson and G. Wood at half were very smart at making openings.

Gent worked his hardest, and he rendered splendid assistance in defence. Gloucester's try was one of the best recorded during the game, Frank Smith and Berry taking equal share in the registering of the point. Berry received Smith's pass just inside the Leicester half, but though hotly chased the City forward could not be caught.

Gloucester ought to have scored at least two other tries, but Griffiths (not Hubert Smith) made a sad error of judgment in passing when only a few yards from the line with no opponent near him. Of the City forwards Johns was marked out for special attention, but the International did sterling work, and Hayward and Berry came under notice for good play.

The Leicester three-quarters gave an exhilarating display, Booth (the New Zealander) and Percy Lawrie being repeatedly in evidence. Both made several brilliant runs, Booth running straight in the true "All Black" style, while Lawrie's dodging and swerving fairly nonplussed the City players. Their task certainly was rendered easier by the half-hearted opposition offered by the visitors.

After doing so well in previous out matches this season, Gloucester's form was altogether disappointing. There will have to be a vast improvement if anything of a fight is going to be made with Swansea at Kingsholm on Saturday.

The "Leicester Mercury" remarks : The result – 23 points to 11 – was not in the least too heavy, having regard to the run of the play.

Leicester are to be heartily congratulated on their success. The forwards were splendid in the first half, and were quite masters of the situation. Their scrimmage work was all that could be desired, and in the loose they simply over-ran their opponents.

The City men, however, were distinctly good in the line-out, and this was the only phase of play that would bear comparison with the work of Leicester. Johns gave his men a fine lead, and Berry and Parham gave him loyal support, but some of the other men were slow.

Gent was good behind the scrum, but in Wood he met his master. Indeed, Leicester's scrum half has few equals. Jackett was good, as usual, and Cook rendered invaluable service for Gloucester. But beyond Gent and Cook the backs were slow, and their combined efforts caused no trouble. Taking the game as a whole it was the best that has been played between the teams for many years.