

# THE CITIZEN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1909

YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. NORTHAMPTON

Vears kicked off for Gloucester, and a visiting forward receiving, he ran round and started a round of passing. A punt down the field saw a Northampton player take the ball off-side, and the game was ordered back to inside the visitors' half.

Play opened very tamely, and it was evident at the outset that the players were feeling the effects of previous matches. Both teams early tried to open out, but the passing went astray, and operations were left at the centre.

A good punt by Burns took play to the Northampton 25, but Leigh sent back again with a touch-finder. A capital burst by the City forwards tested the visitors' defence, and Beasley getting his kick charged down by Teague, Nelmes gathered on the rebound and burst over with a try, Hayward failing at goal.

Resuming, Ridgway put in a huge punt, which reached the Gloucester 25. Harrington had to get back to field, and he kicked straight to an opponent, who was, however, upset. The ball getting loose, Berry and Burns dribbled clear, and kicked past Leigh. There was a race for possession, but Teague just failed to gain another try, a minor being awarded.

Harrington replied nicely to the drop out and the City forwards were again prominent with a fine burst. Ridgway checked and started passing, but Mobbs was floored before he could get going. Ensuing play was fairly even, but Northampton looked dangerous once with a passing move. A knock on, however, ensued, and the movement was checked.

The visitors, by the aid of good kicking, found touch inside the home 25, where Gloucester had some anxious moments. The forwards eventually cleared, and a good punt by F. Smith took play to the centre. Here Mobbs made off down touch with a dashing run, but he was finely floored by Berry.

Mistakes in handling lost Northampton ground, Wright and Berry taking full advantage. Capital footwork by the home front enabled them to gain some 20 yards, but off-side by Dix immediately lost the ground. Gloucester heeled smartly once or twice, but little headway was made owing to the passing breaking down.

Burns, receiving from Dix, tried to break through, but was collared and lost the ball. Beasley picked up and ran down, but was upset from behind by Berry. The ball getting loose Gloucester dribbled clean away, and there was a possible opening, but something went wrong. Soon afterwards the interval was called with Gloucester attacking.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... 1 try  
Northampton ..... Nil

Northampton restarted, and at once forced a minor with a kick over the line. Following the drop out the City gained a footing in their opponents' half, but Mobbs intercepting he ran to Harrington and then passed. Further exchanges followed, but nothing materialised. F. Smith brought relief for the City with a smart bit of work, but Cook ran back finely, being only upset by Harrington with a low tackle.

Northampton had rather the better of subsequent exchanges, but Dix and Holford brought relief with good footwork, not being stopped until the visitors' 25 was reached. Wheeling well the home forwards rushed right to the line, where Mobbs saved. The International eased the pressure later with a strong run down touch, and centre play ensued. Operations, however, were very scrappy, and there was little brilliant play.

Berry showed up well with a good bit of play which kept the game at the Northampton half. Heeling by the City saw Burns open out, but the ball went astray. Craddock, however, took a flying kick, and F. Smith racing up tried hard to rob Leigh, but he knocked on. Play was in front of the Northampton goal, when Wright marked but Hayward failed with his shot at goal. Mobbs received and tried to run out, but he was beautifully tackled by Wyburn amidst the cheers of the crowd.

Gloucester now attacked strongly, and several times Northampton lines had a narrow escape. Dix twice tried to bore his way through a loose scrum on the line, but each time he was held up. Eventually Northampton gained relief by touching down.

Wright replied to the drop out, and Gloucester at once found a footing in their opponents' end. By the aid of loose footwork Northampton got out of danger, and Ridgeway, with a long punt, sent to touch close to the home line. Dix relieved, but a mistake by Burns allowed Ridgeway to intercept and get very close. The City quickly came away through Nelmes, and got beyond the centre, where play was being contested when the end arrived.

#### RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 1 try (3 points)  
Northampton ..... Nil

#### REMARKS

The game calls for little comment. The scratch Gloucester side did much better than was expected, and taking play throughout they had the better of the exchanges. Still there was little in the play of an exciting character, and both teams showed evident signs of staleness.

Forward, Nelmes, Teague, Holford, and Vears were prominent for Gloucester, the former especially doing a lot of good work. Dix and Burns did fairly well at half, whilst Harrison was very effective for the visitors. The back play on both sides was of moderate quality, and there were few really good bouts of combined passing.

Mobbs was watched with interest, but the International, though making one or two sharp dashes, was too closely watched to get dangerous. Cook showed enterprise on several occasions, and one smart run of his in the first half was heartily applauded. Both full-backs performed with credit.

#### GLOUCESTER A v. BREAM

At Bream. Griffin and Robbins scored tries for Bream. Baker goaled from a mark and converted Robbins' try.

Bream .... 2 goals (1m) 1 try (11 points)  
Gloucester A ..... Nil

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