

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1909

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. BRISTOL

DISAPPOINTING GAME AT KINGSHOLM

GLOUCESTER LUCKY WINNERS

The weather took an unpleasant turn on Saturday morning, but an hour before the match started the conditions brightened considerably. The attendance at Kingsholm, however, suffered.

According to the fixture list, Gloucester should have visited Bristol, but the venue of the two annual fixtures between the teams was changed on the application of the Bristol Club, and Gloucester will appear at the County Ground on February 5th.

The teams took the field, with one exception, as advertised, the only absentees being G. Vears (Gloucester), P. Down and J. Spoors (Bristol).

The teams lined up as follows : –

Gloucester. – W. Egerton, back; F. Smith, W. Hall, A. Hudson, W. J. Vance, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent, J. Stephens, half-backs; W. Johns, H. Berry, G. Holford, G. Griffiths, J. Wyburn, D. Hollands, W. J. Pearce, Lieut. Carleton, forwards.

Bristol. – W. R. Johnston (capt.), back; F. Harris, S. Shipp, H. W. Shewring, C. Kingston, three-quarter backs; C. Spoors, F. Hill, half-backs; M. Mayall, N. Moore, F. Feltham, J. Frost, J. Lear, G. Newton, E. G. Bryant, M. Meyer, forwards.

Referee : Mr. J. Miles (Leicester).

THE GAME

Bristol won the toss, and Johns kicked off against the sun, but for getting in front of the ball Gloucester had to scrum at the centre, It was seen that Hudson was playing on the wing with Smith as centre.

The home team early set up an attack, Hall finding touch cleverly in the Bristol 25. A wild pass was intercepted by Shewring, who made ground, but was collared from behind. Off-side by Bristol gave Gloucester a penalty, but little headway was made with the kick. Still, Gloucester confined play to their opponents' half, until Shipp got in a good punt to the centre. Egerton put his side back, and ensuing play was evenly contested.

Clever work by Griffiths and Holford from a line-out enabled Gloucester to secure a good position, but a visitor relieved with a flying kick. Reckless play lost Gloucester a good slice of territory, but it was regained by Stephens. Gent next punted high to Johnston, who made a mark under difficulties, and with his kick got Bristol out of a dangerous position.

A penalty against Gloucester availed Bristol very little, but Hill, snapping up a pass from Gent to Stephens, ran down touch and punted over Egerton's head. Hudson came across and gathered, but his kick was charged down, the ball rebounding over the goal-line for a minor.

The drop-out was well replied to by Johnston, and Bristol gained a footing in the home half for the first time. Twice Bristol heeled, but the passing broke down when there was any likelihood of an opening. Bristol kept on the aggressive, and a mis-kick by Smith went over the goal-line, where Vance only touched down in the nick of time.

So far the game had been very tame. Gloucester at length opened out, Stephens cutting through smartly and throwing out a wide pass to the City captain. Hudson gathered the ball, but a re-pass to Smith was not taken.

Hall was prominent with a couple of well intentioned efforts to break through, but they were not successful. Stephens next made a fine run, but went a trifle too far and was pulled down. Johnston, taking a free, found touch with a lovely kick a dozen yards from the home line, where operations were fought out for a few minutes.

Holford, Griffiths, Hollands, and Johns combined in a smart movement, which took Gloucester out of danger. Gent further improved matters for his side, and operations were fought out in the Bristol half. Bristol tried to clear by passing, but it was ineffective. The home team retaliated, and the ball got out to Hudson, but the International did not travel far.

Next the ball came along to the opposite wing, where Vance made a dashing burst down touch. Bristol came away with a good effort to mid-field, but they were checked in time. The home team worked back, and Gent, dribbling brilliantly, went right to the line, where he was just robbed of the ball. Gloucester did well after this, and but for the ball bouncing the wrong way Hall would have had a certain try.

Immediately after Carleton brought off a strong burst and pass, but Bristol saved smartly. Loose play by the City enabled Bristol to clear, and mid-field was then the scene of operations. An opening by Griffiths gave Hall a chance, but the centre held on too long, with Vance waiting with a clear field.

Gloucester tried to open out, and at length Stephens fed Vance nicely near the touch-line. The wing man got off at full speed, and clearing Johnston raced round behind the posts. It was a fine effort, but was not rewarded, for the touch-judge had hoisted his flag indicating that Vance had stepped over the touch-line.

Immediately after Carleton, getting hold in the loose, passed out to Vance, who punted ahead. Wyburn was well up, and gathering the ball fell over the line with a try, which Egerton converted with a fine kick. Soon afterwards the interval was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 1 goal
Bristol Nil

Feltham resumed, the ball going to Smith, who raced round and passed to Hudson. The latter cross-kicked, and Wyburn gathering nearly repeated his effort just before the interval, the ball going out of his hands and being picked up by Johnston. The effort, however, led to a sharp attack on the Bristol line, and from a smart pick-up by Johns a try was only just missed. For an infringement at the scrum Bristol were penalised, but Egerton missed the shot at goal, a minor resulting.

Directly after the drop-out the Gloucester backs were given possession by Wyburn from a line-out. Vance punted down, and there was a fine race for possession. Holford looked a certainty, but he was beaten on the post by Bryant, who saved at the expense of being winded.

Following the re-start, Bristol passed smartly, but Kingston was touched by the toe and brought down when going at full speed. Slow and ill-judged passing by Gloucester lost ground, but a foul by a Bristolian gave Gloucester a penalty. The kick, however, was well returned. At the centre the Bristol halves opened out, and Kingston ran up to Egerton, who returned to Shewring, for the latter to score a fine try. Moore failed at goal.

Gloucester resumed, and a spell of even play followed. Bristol got set going with a loose rush, but off-side lost them the advantage. A pretty effort by Hill took the visitors very close to the line, and Gloucester were hard pressed. A scrum was formed five yards out, but Gent secured and punted to touch at the 25-flag. More kicking made further headway for Gloucester, but the visitors returned with a passing bout.

Shewring, putting in a short punt, followed up, but Egerton secured. He was tackled in possession, but managed to pass back to Hudson, who kicked clear. Bristol were heeling nicely just now, but they could not do much.

Johns put in a fine dribble which tested Johnston, but Bristol soon regained the ground. Fast play followed, Carleton showing up with a splendid burst which should have materialised. Next Vance got in a splendid burst, but succumbed to a superb tackle by Johnston.

Faulty handling by Gloucester gave Bristol an advantage which the visitors were not slow to avail themselves of. However, Johns led the Gloucester forwards in a lovely rush, the ball being cleverly taken past Johnston. There was an open goal, but Holford knocked on five yards from the line. From a line-out a minute later Pearce secured and forced himself over the line with a good try. The place-kick failed.

Resuming, Gloucester had further chances, but they were thrown away. Then Bristol had a look-in, and Shewring looked to have a nice chance. He essayed a pass, however, which was knocked on. After this Gent got in a pretty bit of footwork which placed Gloucester in their opponents' half. Here the home team ought to have taken advantage of several openings, but they failed badly.

Bristol came strongly in succeeding play, but they, too, fumbled when they got in a scoring position. Gloucester had one or two narrow escapes, but the situation was saved luckily. Bristol continued to have the better of the exchanges, and after clever back play by Shewring and Kingston, the latter scored a pretty try. Moore failed miserably at the kick for goal.

Gloucester made a spurt on the resumption, and following some smart work Vance had a dash for the line, but he was held up. Immediately after Hudson forced a minor with a kick over the line. In the last five minutes Gloucester made desperate efforts to increase their lead. Bristol were again and again in danger, but despite all efforts there was no further scoring.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)
Bristol 2 tries (6 points)

REMARKS

It was a disappointing game, in which Gloucester were lucky in gaining full points. The home backs could not complain of lack of chances to-day, for they were repeatedly in possession. Again and again, however, the passing broke down, and often Bristol benefited as a result of the mistakes. The visitors were by no means faultless, but on the day they handled better than the home men, and the two tries by Shewring and Kingston were well merited.

Forward it was a tough struggle in the tight, but Gloucester had the better of the heeling. In the loose honours also went to the City. Johns put in some fine footwork at times, and he was splendidly supported by Hollands, Holford, and Carleton. In the lines-out Wyburn and Griffiths were often conspicuous, and the former was often alone in following up. Bristol were best represented by Moore (who put in two or three dashing bursts), Feltham, and Bryant. They were a hard working pack through-out, and in the closing stages the players set up a fine defence.

At half, Gent got through a lot of work, and it was no fault of his the team did not do better. Stephens was not so successful as usual, but the inability of those behind him no doubt prompted him to try more on his own. That he was not able to do much individually was due to the deadly tackling of the Bristolians.

The Gloucester three-quarters were decidedly off-colour, with the exception of Vance, whose praiseworthy efforts to score deserved tangible reward. Hudson figured at centre and wing, but was by no means up to his form. Smith and Hall, too, erred often, and the display of the line as a whole was disappointing. For Bristol, Shewring and Kingston formed a strong right wing, and gave no end of trouble in attack, whilst their defence was very sound.

A redeeming feature of the game was the fine display of Johnston, the Bristol custodian. He gave a most finished display, and his kicking to touch was great. Egerton gave a sound exhibition for Gloucester.

GLOUCESTER A v BRISTOL A

CITY SECONDS SUCCESSFUL

At Bristol. Early play went in favour of the home side, Boddie and Shute making good runs. Gloucester got down, and Fry was compelled to kick dead to prevent Hall scoring. After several rounds of good passing Barnes scored a clever try, Hamblin failing to convert.

Hambling kicked a penalty goal.

Gloucester were all over their opponents. Boddie scored for Bristol, Fry converting.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 goal (p), 1 try
Bristol 1 goal

On resuming Gloucester at once attacked, and Dix slipped over from a scrum in front of the Bristol goal. Hamblin's kick failed.

Boddie was fouled, and Bristol gained ground from the free. Barnes was nearly in, knocking over the corner flag. Gloucester added to the lead through Welshman, Hamblin failing to convert.

There was only one team in it, Gloucester outplaying their opponents at all points. Fouls were frequent, and Hamblin was ordered off. The game finished in darkness.

RESULT :

Gloucester 12 points
Bristol 5 points