

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1909

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v OLD MERCHANT TAYLORS

Unfortunately for the success of this match at Kingsholm, rain fell heavily, and the attendance consequently suffered. Gloucester rested F. Smith, Johns, Wyburn, and Stephens, but the Taylors had a good side.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – W. Egerton; A. Hudson, W. Hall, H. Barnes, and W. J. Vance; D. R. Gent and J. Goddard; G. Vears, H. Berry, G. Holford, G. Griffiths, D. Hollands, W. J. Pearce, F. Pegler, and W. Nelmes.

Old Merchant Taylors. – J. E. Raphael; C. T. O'Callaghan, R. A. Lepingwell, E. N. Fuller, and G. Saunders; J. S. Ryan and A. B. Barrett; C. Bourns, A. B. Wallis, A. F. Berthon, W. Haines, J. R. Pound, H. J. Pullein-Thompson, J. M. Wyatt, and P. D. Strang.

Referee : Mr. G. C. Rodway (Midland Counties).

THE GAME

The Taylors started, and there being no reply play opened in the Gloucester half. The City forwards early distinguished themselves with a good rush, but Raphael saved nicely. Near the centre the Taylors opened out, and Lepingwell feeding O'Callaghan the wing man made off at a fine pace. Hudson partly tackled the visitor, but he shook himself free and raced over with a splendid try within three minutes of the start. The kick at goal failed.

There was no reply to the drop-out, and play was fought out in the City half. The Taylors' forwards got dangerous with a loose dribble, but they were stopped in time. Then Gent passed out, and Barnes after making headway threw out a lofty pass to the City captain, who could not take it. A fine punt by Hudson was well followed up, and Raphael was collared in possession. A splendid rush by the home forwards looked promising, but O'Callaghan gathered neatly and ran to touch. For an infringement the Londoners were penalised, but Egerton's shot for goal, from a long way out, fell short, Raphael punting out to touch. Some fast forward play followed, Gloucester being seen to advantage.

Egerton helped his side with a nice touch-kick, and Gloucester found a footing in their opponents' end. Breaking up a scrum quickly, the City front, led by Pearce and Berry, got away in irresistible style. The ball was nicely taken past Raphael, and Hollands, fielding cleverly on the run, notched a glorious run. No goal resulted, and the teams were level.

Egerton returned the drop-out with a good kick, and ensuing play was contested in the Taylors' half. The visitors were twice penalised for off-side by Barrett at the scrum, and by the kicks Gloucester maintained their position. Gloucester looked dangerous for a couple of minutes, but Raphael, with a great run, came right away to near the centre, when he passed. The Taylors made further headway, but off-side checked them. The City worked out of danger, but Raphael brought off a marvellous clearance under difficulties. Passing by the Londoners' backs saw O'Callaghan off again, but Gent got across and effected a superb tackle.

On the heavy and treacherous ground the game was exceptionally fast, both teams playing very keenly. Gent and Holford shone in some fine footwork, and then Gloucester opened out. Hudson tried to dash through, but was collared. He managed to transfer to Barnes, but Vance could do nothing when he got the ball. Play was now vigorously contested in the Taylors' half, but the slippery state of the ball spoiled correct play. The visitors by passing made ground, but Hudson, with a splendid tackle, upset Lepingwell, and muddled his pass.

Dashing footwork by the London forwards nearly ended in disaster to the home team, who saved right on the line. A minute later the Taylors lost a certain score through Ryan slipping in front of goal.

A big burst by the home forwards changed the venue, and Hudson with a punt sent the ball up the field. The ball struck an opponent in transit and went into the arms of Vears, who ran and passed. Another transfer gave possession to Hollands, who with a strong burst crossed in the corner. Egerton's shot for goal, a good effort, just failed.

On the resumption Hudson showed up with a fine dribble to Raphael, which the latter checked. The ball, however, was carried on, and the Taylors had a narrow escape. After this, there was some desperate forward work, the tackling being immense. Gloucester were going very strongly, and from a cross-kick Barnes fielded, and sent to Vance. The latter partly cleared Raphael, but finding himself hemmed in re-passed to Hall, who went over with a good try. Again the place-kick failed.

Hudson replied to the drop-out with a nice touch-finder, and the game continued in the Taylors' half. Berry, from a line-out, made a brilliant dash for the line, but he was collared a yard outside by Raphael.

The visitors cleared with footwork, but Gloucester retaliated, and following good work by Holford the ball was taken over the line, and Pearce credited with a try, though he was knocked out in doing so. Egerton converted, and the City led at the interval by 14 points to 3.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 goal, 3 tries
Old Merchant Taylors 1 try

Vears re-started, and to the return Hudson found touch with a well-judged kick. Gloucester heeled from the first scrum, but Goddard missed his pass, and nothing resulted. Hall, with a neat bit of work, tested the Londoners' defence, and Gloucester obtained a good position.

A cross-kick by Gent, however, was well taken by O'Callaghan, who cut up the field in fine style. Hudson waited for his man, but he did not stop him effectively, who passed to a confrere. The latter was well tackled, but letting the ball go the Taylors dribbled to Egerton, who made a nice save. In their own 25 Gent started a bout of passing, and the ball came along nicely to Hudson who dashed away with only Raphael in front of him. A neat punt over the latter's head saw Hudson tackle an opponent who had got back and fielded the leather. A loose kick subsequently sent the ball to the line, where Hall was just robbed of a try.

Gloucester pressed severely after this, but the defence held out. Good kicking brought the Taylors to more favourable quarters, and from a punt over the line a minor was conceded. Another minor was recorded from the drop-out. Egerton's next kick was beautifully fielded by Raphael, who with a corkscrew run cleared several opponents and passed, but the transfer was not taken.

There was a temporary stoppage for an injury to an opponent, but he was able to resume after attention. Play was on the Gloucester 25, and the Taylors heeling Lepingwell secured and with a lovely run clean beat the defence and scored a nice try. Raphael failed at goal.

From the drop-out Barrett picked up and fed Fuller, who handed to Saunders. The latter raced hard, but Vance rolled him over to touch amidst great cheering.

From the subsequent scrum the Gloucester forwards dribbled in great style, and they were not stopped until Raphael was reached. The Taylors regained the ground with some smart passing, but the tackling was too good. The City came away with a fine burst, and Hall cross-kicking, there was a good opening, but off-side brought the movement to a stop.

Play was in the Taylors' half, and Gent opening out, the ball went right across the ground to Vance, but the latter failed to hold the ball with a fine chance.

Hollands next came into prominence with a dashing run, but he was bowled over in the nick of time. Next Gloucester started passing from a line-out, and Hudson had a dash for the line, but O'Callaghan bored him to touch. The Taylors eased the pressure cleverly and centre play followed.

Hollands led a fine rush back, but the Taylors quickly retaliated. The City kept up a hot pressure, but the defence was very keen. Once Hollands crossed after a clever movement, but he was called back for a forward transfer.

In their own 25 Gloucester opened out, but Goddard's pass was intercepted by Lepingwell, who only had Egerton to face. A timely transfer gave possession to O'Callaghan, who with a clear field raced home and behind the posts. Raphael unaccountably missed the easy place.

Nothing further was done before the end.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal 3 tries (14 points)
Taylors 3 tries (9 points)

GLOUCESTER A v MORELAND'S

At Kingsholm on Boxing Day morning.

The Seconds played several men from St. Mark's – The Brothers Westbury, S. Stephens, Gwilliam, and Merchant.

Play opened brightly, and in the first half Baldwin and F. Westbury scored for the A team, the place kicks failing.

Changing over, Moreland's had all the game, their forwards especially doing well. Play, however, was uninteresting, being very scrambling.

Towards the end the Seconds improved, and Baldwin and Washbourn added tries, one being converted.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 1 goal 3 tries (14 points)
Moreland's Nil

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