

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1910

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. LEICESTER

GOOD PERFORMANCE BY THE CITY

A POINTLESS DRAW

GLOUCESTER PLAYER INJURED

The City had to meet Leicester to-day away from home short of their three International players – Gent, Johns, and Berry – and Griffiths (still on the injured list). Leicester are a formidable side at home, and though the back division was not at full strength this afternoon, Heard and P. Lawrie both being absent, the forwards were a strong lot.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – W. Egerton, back; A. Hudson, W. Hall, H. Barnes, W. J. Vance, three-quarter backs; S. Stephens, J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears, G. Holford, D. Hollands, W. J. Pearce, W. Nelmes, F. Pegler, F. Westbury, J. Wyburn, forwards.

Leicester. – D. Elwood, back; E. J. Jackett, K. B. Wood, J. D. Smith, J. R. Watson, three-quarter backs; O. J. Hargreaves, G. W. Wood, half-backs; S. Penny, W. S. Ellis, G. Greasley, T. B. Hogarth, A. S. McIntyre, H. S. Lawrie, J. C. Burdett, W. J. Allen, forwards.

THE GAME

The weather was not as favourable as one could have wished, rain falling heavily just before the match, and made the ground very treacherous. Gloucester started without Vance, though he later put in an appearance.

Leicester first attacked, and Hargreaves looked like going through, but dropped the ball at the critical moment. Hudson relieved, and Gloucester at once rushed back to midfield, where good forward work was shown by both sides. Stephens was next prominent with a smart clearance and kick, which put Leicester on the defensive.

Shortly afterwards a Gloucester player got away unmarked, and Hudson would have scored had he not knocked on. This was a decidedly bad bit of luck for Gloucester, who up to now had had the best of matters.

Shortly after this, when things were promising well for them, the City had the misfortune to lose Barnes, who had done well in the three-quarter line. From this point Leicester attacked by a passing movement, but the defence prevailed.

A far more dangerous movement followed from a combined dribble by the forwards, but Hall went down splendidly and saved the situation. Barnes, it was ascertained, receive a severe kick on the left foot and a small bone was broken just behind the big toe.

Leicester pressed before the interval, but half-time arrived without either side having scored.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester Nil
Leicester Nil

Play in the second half opened briskly. Gloucester were handicapped by the loss of Barnes, but they persevered with a will, and once the forwards came dangerously near success, Ellwood badly letting down the home side.

Leicester tried hard for the lead, and Harry Lawrie narrowly missed gaining it from a penalty kick. Leicester again pressed, but Hall relieved, play again veering to mid-field.

Smith returned to the attack with a short sprint, but he was brought down by Vance when a few yards from home. Stephens pushed back the attack by a spirited effort, and later Hall intercepted a pass and ran hard to the home 25. There some hard scrimmages were fought out, and on the whole went in favour of Gloucester, whose forwards were doing surprisingly well.

During the last ten minutes Leicester made desperate efforts to score, but Gloucester defended grandly. Once Kenneth Wood looked like going through with the ball at his feet, but J. Stephens pulled him up. A good forward burst was next forthcoming, but to no purpose.

Gloucester retaliated with a good forward movement, which drove Leicester to midfield, and afterwards the Brothers Stephens went down with the ball to the home 25 before they were pulled up. Leicester worked back to the open, but failed to make an impression on the sturdy West Countrymen, who in the end had the satisfaction of retiring with honours even, neither side having scored.

RESULT :

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| Gloucester | Nil |
| Leicester | Nil |

REMARKS

Our Leicester correspondent remarks : – The result is distinctly creditable to Gloucester. They were a man short during the greater part of the game, and yet had as much of the play as their opponents, and once or twice came dangerously near beating them. The forwards played a great game, and the halves were strenuous throughout. S. Stephens in particular did well. Too much cannot be said of the three-quarters, because of the conditions, but their defence was very sound.

Leicester were disappointing forward, where previously they had done so well; and their backs could make no headway against the doughty defence of the City division. Hudson and Hall were the pick of the quartet, and Egerton gave a good account of himself behind. With a little luck Gloucester would have won.

GLOUCESTER A v. OLD BOYS
SECONDS WIN A POOR GAME

At Kingsholm, before a moderate company.

Gloucester A. – H. Hancock; W. Washbourne, J. Hamblin, L. Hamblin, and J. M. Baldwin; Allen and Ridge; W. Blackford, F. Welshman, J. Price, S. Millard, Merrick, and three others.

Old Boys. – F. Quixley; A. Clock, P. Roach, A. T. Neale, and P. Rodway; J. Williams and H. Thompson; S. D. Lane, H. A'Bear, L. Peckover, L. Norman, P. Simmonds, A. D. Karn, D. Pearce, and A. Knight.

Gloucester started an hour late and with only thirteen men. The Old Boys attacked at the start, but they were beaten off, and the Seconds gained a footing in their opponents' half. Quixley gained applause for a couple of relief kicks under pressure, but Baldwin, with a fine run, put the Old Boys on the defensive. With a strong forward burst, in which Lane and Norman shone, the visitors' carried play to the other end, where Peckover was only tackled in the nick of time.

Gloucester changed the venue by the aid of a loose dribble, but the treacherous state of the ground caused the players to overrun the ball. From a pass Clock ran strongly for the Old Boys, but Baldwin forced him to touch at the centre. The Seconds had now the full complement of players and ensuing play was evenly contested at midfield. Back play was at a discount owing to the greasy state of the ball, and mistakes in handling were numerous.

Clever footwork by the Gloucester halves caused trouble to the Old Boys, and later Quixley was hard pressed. Only a minor, however, resulted. On the drop out the Old Boys were confined to their 25, where Welshman dribbled cleverly to the line. Quixley, however, gathered neatly and sent to touch.

A strong rush by the Seconds' forwards looked promising for a time, but at the critical moment Quixley turned the ball to touch.

In subsequent play the Seconds forced a couple of minors, but nothing of real incident occurred. Gloucester continued to have all the game, but they made poor use of scoring chances, J. Hamblin neglecting to pass once when Baldwin had practically a walk over. Gloucester had all the better of the exchanges to the interval, but could not score.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

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| Gloucester A | Nil |
| Old Boys | Nil |

Gloucester re-started, but the game continued wholly forward and very scrambling. The Seconds once got very close, but the ball rolled to touch-in-goal. Another minor was conceded by the Old Boys as the result of a drop for goal by Hancock.

On the drop-out the Old Boys, by strong forward play, gained the home half, but they were quickly sent back. The Seconds' attacking, however, was miserably weak, and one or two good chances went a-begging. Eventually, from a pass by Allen, Washbourne dashed over in the corner, the place-kick failing.

There was no improvement in the play on the re-start, for though the forwards played keenly the backs were poor in combination.

Allen, the Seconds' outside half, repeatedly held on when there was a chance to open out, and some good opportunities were lost. By dint of keen following up and good tackling the Old Boy's attacked for the first time this half, but Hancock cleared effectively.

Quixley saved his side under pressure, but Sysum, who was always on the ball, gave the Old Boys anxiety. Off-side, however, lost the Seconds a good position, and the visitors got out of danger.

Thompson, running back towards his own line, in trying to clear, nearly caused disaster to his side, but the situation was saved. Clock was continually prominent in defence for the Old Boys, and he was easily the best three-quarter on the field.

In the last ten minutes the Old Boys played up strongly and came very near scoring. Then the Seconds rushed away three-parts the length of the ground, and over the line, but Roach kicked dead. In the last minute Baldwin added to Gloucester's score, no goal resulting.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 2 tries (6 points)
Old Boys Nil

JC