

THE CITIZEN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1910

YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. NORTHAMPTON

CITY WIN BY THE GOAL KICK

At Kingsholm, this being the concluding match of the Easter programme. Gloucester had several changes from the side which beat Cinderford, whilst Mobbs had to stand down from the Northampton team owing to an injured ankle.

The International was anxious to play, but on being examined by Dr. Knight at the Royal Infirmary on arrival in Gloucester, he was strongly advised not to play again the season.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – E. Hall; T. Burns, W. Hall, H. Barnes, and W. Washbourne; D. R. Gent and J. Stephens; G. Vears, H. Berry, W. Edwards, F. Pegler, N. Hayes, and T. Millard.[sic]

Northampton. – W. Horne; R. Hives, R. Harrison, J. N. Beasley, and R. C. Cook; G. Williamson and J. Brooksby; E. W. White, J. Birch, A. Chalmers, C. Lee, P. W. Fussell, W. Welch, G. Wright, and A. G. Bull.

THE GAME

The weather was gloriously fine – too warm for football – but the attendance was only moderate. Vears started for Gloucester against the sun, and early on both sides were penalised.

The visitors gained a footing in the home half, where Gloucester heeled. Gent's pass was, however, intercepted by Beasley, who ran up to E. Hall and then yielded to Wright, who scored in a good position in less than five minutes from the start. Hives converted.

Gloucester resumed, and a forward rush took the City well inside the 25 line. Gloucester, however, lost the position by another interception. For off-side the visitors were penalised, but E. Hall failed in his attempt for goal, though the effort was a good one.

By clever passing Northampton worked down, and only a fine tackle by Washbourne checked a score. Gloucester cleared gradually and midfield was the scene of operations. The City backs, well served by Gent, got in a series of exchanges, and Burns had a good run, but was well tackled.

The City forwards with a fine loose rush, went very close, but a flying kick saved the situation. Then from a cross-kick by Gent, a visitor snapped up from under the nose of Barnes, and there was an open field. Transfers followed, but E. Hall effected a grand tackle when matters looked dangerous. Some indiscriminate handling ensued amongst the Northampton men, but in the end little ground was made.

The ball was given plenty of air by both teams, but the Gloucester backs could not handle accurately, and once or twice ground was lost. An erratic pass out from the scrum by Gent allowed Cook to dribble away and cross-kick, but the little International got back and made a fine recovery.

Centre play followed till at length Gent got away, and the home three-quarters handled smartly. Burns, when tackled, returned to W. Hall, who was upset and lost the ball. Stephens, however, was up, and gathering cross-punted to the goal mouth, where Pearce followed up and scored under the posts. E. Hall equalised the scores by landing a goal.

Edwards replied nicely to the kick off, and then W. Hall shone in a beautiful bit of work, which took Gloucester to their opponents' 25. A brilliant loose burst by Berry nearly ended in a try, Northampton saving just in time. The East Midlanders worked out of danger, but Gloucester got back by the aid of a round of passing, Washbourne making a good but ineffective attempt to beat the opposition.

They attacked strongly in the next few minutes, and Berry and Millard were only tackled in the nick of time. In the same movement the ball was got out to Barnes, who sent W. Hall over with a good try. E. Hall added the goal points, and the interval was then called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

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| Gloucester | 2 goals |
| Northampton | 1 goal |

Northampton restarted, and play opened in the City half. The visitors heeled, but Gent hampered an opponent and put in a short kick. The ball, however, was captured by Beasley, who ran straight through and up to E. Hall, when he handed to Cook, who scored easily. The place-kick failed.

Soon after the drop-out Washbourne was laid out, but was soon able to continue. At once Edwards and Berry came away with the ball at a warm pace, and kicked past Horne. The latter was pounced upon directly he got to the ball, but some colleagues got back and helped him out.

Immediately after Barnes forced a minor with an attempt to drop a goal. Following the drop-out the Gloucester forwards, with Washbourne, shone in a sharp rush, and the ball was taken over the line by Hayes and Edwards. The kick, however, was too hard, and the ball went dead.

Gloucester still confined play to the East Midlanders' half. Berry had a short burst and passed, but the ball went astray. The City, however, kept up the attack, and the Northampton line had a narrow escape.

Off-side by Northampton gave Gloucester a penalty, but E. Hall could not find the goal posts, and another minor resulted.

Pegler was knocked out by an opponent charging him over as he was taking the drop-out, and there was a brief delay, whilst he received attention. Northampton made ground from a line out on resuming, but Gloucester soon got back to midfield, and Vears, with a strong effort, reached the visitors' 25.

Both teams appeared to be feeling the effects of the heat, and play subsequently was slack. Northampton, with a good burst, reached the home 25, but a penalty, taken by E. Hall, put Gloucester to midfield, and Gent further improved matters with a neat punt to touch.

The City had the better of the exchanges, but the game lacked incident. Brooksby, the Northampton scrum half, got penalised several times for off-side tactics, but though E. Hall made a couple of good attempts for goal he failed to cover the cross-bar. Gloucester continued to attack, but could not get through.

Just before the finish Barnes got a flying kick charged down by Harrison, who picked up with an open field. He, however, was not fast enough to round E. Hall, and was collared. He essayed a pass which was taken, but another tackle prevented the try – a very narrow escape for Gloucester, as the score would have won the match for Northampton.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 goals (10 points)

Northampton 1 goal 1 try (8 points)

REMARKS

It was a trying afternoon for the players, and two thirties, over which the game extended, were more than sufficient. Gloucester ought to have won by a larger margin, but the City nearly gave the game away at the finish.

The City forwards did well against a strong and vigorous pack, and the backs combined well at times, though judgment in passing was lacking.

Beasley was Northampton's strongest player behind, and he was mainly responsible for both tries. Brooksby, the visitors' scrum half, was a very wilful offender of the rules, and Northampton were extremely fortunate that they did not have two or three penalty goals put on against them.

JC