

THE CITIZEN

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1911

YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v CINDERFORD

CITY'S FIRST DEFEAT

FORESTERS REPEAT LAST SEASON'S TRIUMPH

This annual Mop Monday fixture was played at Kingsholm.

Cinderford were short of Rhodes, M. Meek, A. Hall and Wright, and Gloucester were without the services of W. Hall and C. Cook.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – F. Hayward; A. Hudson (capt.), J. M. Baldwin, W. Staunton, and W. Washbourne; W. Dix and J. Hamblin; G. Vears, W. Johns, H. Berry, G. Griffiths, N. Hayes, A. Lodge, F. Yates, and S. Smart.

Cinderford. – C. Meek; A. Robbins, G. Walkeley, G. Phelps, and –. Beaven; I. Woolford and J. Baker; O. Colwell, G. Bowkett (capt.), A. Redding, E. Kilby, G. Leighton, J. Watkins, A. Teague, and F. Russell.

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis (Stroud).

THE GAME

Cinderford kicked off, and play opened at the centre. The City forwards got going at once, but little ground was gained, and nothing resulted from another movement initiated by Dix.

A kick down by Phelps was well returned to touch by Hayward, but a fine rush by the Cinderford forwards took the game close to the home line. Here Baker made a good effort to cross, but lost the ball. Hudson punted out from his own line to Meek, who took a drop at goal, the ball bouncing under the bar. Gloucester dropped out, and mid-field play followed.

For an infringement Gloucester were awarded a free, and the resultant kick gained them some 20 yards. Cinderford, however, quickly regained with a determined burst, which was only checked by Hayward running out of play. The City cleared from a dangerous position through Dix and Hamblin, and later Washbourne got in a useful kick to touch.

From a scrum Dix passed out smartly to Hamblin, who fed Washbourne. The wing man ran down touch, but fell a victim to Meek's tackling, and the ball rolling loose a visitor kicked back to Hayward, who returned to touch. Gloucester were penalised hereabouts, and Bowkett took a shot for goal from near half-way, but his attempt was a poor one. Hayward, in fielding, knocked the ball back over his line, and being pressed heavily only got a poor kick to touch.

Cinderford attacked hotly, and Baker had a dash for the line, but was smothered. Then from a scrum Dix got the ball out to Hamblin, who sent to Hudson. The captain raced down and fed Baldwin, and the left winger got away splendidly. Being faced by Meek, Baldwin gave an inside pass to Hamblin, and the latter after a brilliant run, in which he beat several opponents cleverly who had come across, scored behind the posts. Staunton failed at goal.

Bowkett restarted, and Hayward returned well, play settling in the Cinderford half. Gloucester tried hard to open out, but Staunton slipped when getting under weigh. The Cinderford forwards, with a telling dribble, looked dangerous until well checked by Hayward, who took the ball from his opponents' feet and got it to touch. Gloucester retaliated with a similar burst, Johns leading, but Cinderford came back again in fine style, Hayward stopping them well.

A minute later the City custodian was caught napping in waiting for the bounce, and Walkeley nearly robbed him – a narrow escape. In stopping a rush just previously Hudson was laid out, and after attention from the ambulance men he had to be carried off – apparently with a twisted knee.

Holford came out to wing three-quarter, and Washbourne played centre, when the game was resumed. Playing strongly forward, Cinderford got dangerous, and the City defence was sorely tested. Hamblin twice brought relief with neat punts, and then a good rush brought the game out to more favourable quarters. A high punt by Staunton was well followed up by the centre, and Meek failing to field, Yates gathered and cut out a fine opening. He, however, tried to do too much, and was brought down.

Desperate play followed, the tackling being extremely vigorous. Watkins brought off a lovely solo dribble, in which he beat several men cleverly, but Holford stepped into the breach and effected a fine clearance. Neat back play by Cinderford took the Foresters very close. The ball getting loose on the City line, a Gloucester man took a flying kick, but made a feeble effort, and Bowkett taking advantage was credited with a try. The same player failed at goal. Soon after the interval arrived.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 try
Cinderford	1 try

Gloucester had Hudson back on resuming, so that his injury was not so bad as at first expected. The first item of interest was a clever dribble by Berry and Smart, which, however, was checked in time. Cinderford rushed back, but Gloucester retaliated, Robbins bringing off a wonderful save under his own posts.

Heeling by Cinderford saw the ball go out to the backs, and a long punt down found touch at the Gloucester 25. The City quickly changed the venue to mid-field, where play was hotly contested.

A mark by Watkins enabled Bowkett to send to touch well inside the Gloucester quarter, where Baker, Woolford, and Walkeley combined in a nice movement. The wing, however, was thrown into touch. Cinderford maintained the pressure, and with their forwards heeling well the City defence was kept on the alert.

Receiving the ball from Dix, Hambling only put in a tame kick, and Staunton fouling Baker, Gloucester were penalised in a good position. Walkeley was entrusted with the shot at goal, and with a nice kick put Cinderford three points ahead amidst the enthusiastic cheers of the Foresters' supporters.

Gloucester restarted, but Cinderford, playing with rare dash, at once worked to the City quarters. Dix and Hamblin failing to gather, Watkins dribbled very close, Hayward saving the situation by taking a flying kick. Cinderford, however, were in a good attacking position, but a drop for goal by Robbins failed in its attempt, a minor resulting.

The drop-out was well returned, and then the Cinderford backs gaining possession there was a cross-kick. Washbourne, however, got back and with a clever effort dodged two opponents and ran to the centre. A cross-punt followed, and Meek, who received, failing to play the ball, he was penalised. Hayward had a place for goal, but sent wide, and Cinderford touched down.

Following the drop-out the City were at fault, and the Foresters were allowed to get away to the home 25. Baker here passed out from a scrum but the ball went astray, and Baldwin securing, he put in a fine run, but succumbed to numbers. From near the centre Hayward had a kick for goal from a penalty, but a splendid effort just failed.

Ensuing play favoured Cinderford, and Woolford with a clever drop with his left foot only just missed a goal. Hudson was going lame again, and Holford was again brought out of the scrum. Cinderford now attacked repeatedly, and after several fruitless attempts, Robbins dropped a goal.

Gloucester re-started, and soon after Smart, with a brilliant dribble down touch, took the ball over the line and scored in the corner. Hayward landed a fine goal, and only two points now separated the teams. Play to the end was fiercely contested, but there was no further scoring, and Gloucester suffered their first defeat of the season by two points.

RESULT :

Cinderford 2 goals (1d, 1p), 1 try (10 pts.)
Gloucester 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)

REMARKS

Though indebted to two goals from the field for their victory, there could be no question the Foresters thoroughly merited their triumph. The Gloucester forwards, as in London on Saturday, were again off colour, and the honours of this department certainly rested with the Cinderford pack, who played with rare dash and determination, and used their feet to great advantage.

Outside the scrum the winners, though without M. Meek, Rhodes, and A. Hall, were served creditably, Robbins and Walkeley being the pick. Baker was a nippy scrum half-back, but he got more chances than Dix. Hamblin started well, and his try was the best effort of the match, but he fell off in the second half.

The City three-quarters, with limited opportunities, did as well as could be expected. Hudson's injury was a serious misfortune, for though the City captain came back in the second half he was not able to do much.

Gloucester missed Willie Hall badly. His absence was unexplained, and no one seemed to know where he was.