

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1912

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v LEICESTER

CITY MEET THE "TIGERS"

GLOUCESTRIANS WIN BY SEVEN POINTS

A BRILLIANT DISPLAY

For their annual visit to Leicester the City were able to command a stronger team than usual, and there was every prospect of a keen and exciting game.

The players selected for the county, but unable to go to Dublin, were granted the necessary permission to assist their club, and this enabled Gloucester to call on Hudson. Stanley Cook, W. Hall, Holford, Vears, and Lodge. C. Cook, J. Hamblin, and Smart were absentees. W. Johns had promised to turn out, but another engagement prevented his making the journey, and the vacancy forward was filled by J. Harris, the A team captain, who, although on the light side, had the reputation of being a good worker and clever in the loose.

A pleasing feature was the return of W. Hall and Dix at half, and it is sincerely to be hoped nothing will occur to separate this clever pair for the remainder of the season.

Leicester, who have done extremely well this season, are one of the toughest teams to beat at home, and against Gloucester they had selected a powerful fifteen. In this, however, there were three changes – D. Ellwood for Bream, P. Smitten for Taylor, and G. Sharp for Lawrie.

Despite the heavy rain the ground was in fair condition, and there was a capital attendance.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – L. Hamblin, back; A. Hudson (capt.), S. C. Cook, R. G. Clarke, W. Washbourne, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, W. Hall, half-backs; G. Vears, G. Holford, H. Berry, A. Lodge, F. Pegler, J. Meadows, N. Hayes, J. Harris, forwards.

Leicester. – D. Elwood, back; P. W. Lawrie (capt.), F. N. Tarr, A. W. Carr, O. J. Hargrave, three-quarter backs; G. Wood, F. M. Taylor, half-backs; P. S. Smith, W. J. Allen, G. Hopkins, G. Greasley, G. Sharpe, A. S. McIntyre, A. J. Hobbs, G. Ward, forwards.

Referee : Mr. Raith, (Rugby).

THE GAME

Vears kicked off, and opening play was fought out at the centre. Leicester early got in a bout of passing, and Hargrave punted across, Hall receiving but having his kick charged down.

The City forwards recovered the ground with a good rush, but off-side resulted in a penalty against them. The kick sent the game to the Gloucester quarter, where Hall and Hudson relieved. Leicester returned, but the Gloucester backs came away, Cook running strongly and passing to Hudson, who was sent to touch at the centre. Hamblin was called upon shortly after, and he cleared nicely and got in a fine kick to touch.

Even play followed, the Gloucester forwards doing capital work in the loose. Berry headed one fine rush, but was checked when looking dangerous. In some loose play Smitten opened out, but Lawrie was well stopped by Washbourne.

Two penalties against Gloucester gave Leicester the advantage, and the City were hard pressed. A free to the visitors did not benefit much, for Smitten returned to touch a couple of yards from the line. Gloucester relieved brilliantly with a loose rush, and Hall further improved with judicious kicks.

Leicester, however, got back by the aid of a penalty beautifully taken by Ellwood. Then Lawrie, with a kick over the line, forced a minor.

On the restart, Hall, Cook, and Hudson combined in a lovely movement, which was only checked in the home 25. Gloucester went close after this, and Hall narrowly missed dropping a goal from a difficult angle. Gloucester, playing well together, attacked desperately, and the Leicester line had several narrow escapes. Relief eventually came through Elwood, but Hall immediately sent back with a clever screw to touch.

Gloucester continued to play a fine game, and a lovely run by Cook just failed of a score. Next Hall came in the picture with a smart run, and the City again had hard lines in not scoring. Leicester luckily relieved, but only temporarily, for Cook again put Gloucester on the attack. Then came some pretty play, ending in Washbourne crossing, but a forward pass was given.

Gloucester were all over their opponents, Hall being continually prominent. A cross-kick by Washbourne put Gloucester right under the posts, and Dix securing he dropped a clever goal.

Leicester were dangerous on the restart, but the defence was very sound. Just before the interval Gloucester again got the upper hand.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 1 goal (d)
Leicester Nil

Leicester restarted, Washbourne making his mark from the kick. Hall's punt, however, went to the open, and Smitten sent well to touch with his return. Tarr was well stopped in an attempt to break through, and for some infringement not apparent to onlookers, Gloucester were penalised. Carr took the shot for goal right in front of the posts, but the ball fell short, and Dix ran out and passed to Cook, who fed Hudson, but the latter was collared.

Leicester put in a sharp attack on the left, and then Dix, Hall, and Washbourne combined in a smart effort down the short side of the scrum. The final pass, however, was forward, with Washbourne racing over unopposed. Leicester next came away with a strong passing run, but Washbourne pushed Lawrie to touch.

Ellwood checked Holford, who got away with the ball at his feet, but Gloucester were not to be denied, and clever passing between the backs saw Hudson race away. He attempted the short punt over Ellwood's head, but the latter took the ball and saved.

The City went very close after this, and Leicester were very lucky in touching down from a move by Hall. Leicester worked hard, but they could not hold the visitors, who were playing a fine game all round. Cook, with clever judgment, put Gloucester in a scoring position, but again a forward transfer was given with Hudson over in the corner.

Gloucester attacked strongly in the next few minutes, but they were kept out. Then lucky relief came, Gloucester being under the impression the ball had gone out of play and allowing the forwards to get clear away.

Ensuing play was fast and furious, with Leicester doing better. Gloucester's tackling, however, was sound, and Tarr was well marked. Neat work by Dix and Hall enabled Gloucester to gain a more favourable position, but operations were confined to the City half. Clarke tackled Tarr splendidly when the International looked likely to clear, and prevented him passing. From the next scrum Dix opened out, and Hall, Cook, and Hudson handled in turn. The latter punted, but too hard, the ball going dead.

On the drop-out there was a spell of even play, but a grand forward dribble, Berry leading, forced Ellwood to kick to touch just outside. Gloucester, however, persevered and following a grand tackle of Tarr by Clarke, the ball rolled loose and, Washbourne receiving, he dashed over with a corner try. Hamblin's kick for goal from touch hit the upright.

Right to the end Gloucester were the aggressors, and Washbourne was nearly over again on the call of time.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal (d) 1 try (7 points)
Leicester Nil

GLOUCESTER A v GORDON LEAGUE

Gloucester A 2 goals, 4 tries (22 pts.)
Gordon League 1 goal (5 pts.)

JC