

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1912

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v NORTHAMPTON

EAST MIDLANDERS AT KINGSHOLM

CITY'S GOOD WIN

FOURTEEN POINTS TO THREE

Northampton have been visiting Kingsholm regularly for the past twelve years, but though [word/words unreadable] some good fights the East Midlanders have never been able to lower the colours of the City at Gloucester. They made another attempt to achieve their ambition this afternoon, but form did not give them much hope that it would be realised. Gloucester had three changes from the side which defeated Bristol last week, Stanley Cook, Johns, and Berry giving place to J. Hamblin, Pegler, and Griffiths. Northampton had one alteration from the selected side – Tebbitt (forward) for Hoskin. The ground was on the soft side after the heavy rain, and the attendance was only moderate for such an attractive match.

The teams turned out as follows : –

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

Northampton. – W. Hancock, back; E. C. Cook, A. Green, E. R. Mobbs (capt.), W. Bradshaw, three-quarter backs; A. Earl, R. Harrison, half-backs; – Tebbitt, T. Collins, A. G. Bull, E. W. White, L. E. Fitzpatrick, F. Muddiman, A. Chalmers, T. Collier, forwards.

Referee : Mr. J. H. Miles.

THE GAME

Northampton kicked off from the Dean's Walk goal, and opening play was contested at the centre. Gloucester early started a forward movement, but they lost the ball and the visitors saved.

A bad pass back from the scrum by Earl saw Mobbs collared before he could move, and Gloucester obtained a footing in their opponents' half.

Here Dix fielded cleverly in the loose, and bursting away fed J. Hamblin, who broke through beautifully and sending to Hudson, the home captain dashed over in the corner. From a difficult position Hamblin landed a fine goal.

Resuming, play was fast at midfield, where the visitors showed up well. Hall sent them back with a clever screw kick over his head, and later L. Hamblin further improved with a fine touch-finder. Another punt up the field went to Hancock, who returned well. Northampton were getting the ball in the scrums, but the backs could not get going.

Mobbs once had his kick charged down, but the home players failed to take advantage. Gloucester at length heeled, but no ground was gained, the passing breaking down. Dix again got the ball away smartly with a reverse pass, but J. Hamblin failed to take from his brother, though he recovered the ball and held it. Hayes apparently marked from a punt by Green, but it was not allowed, a scrum being ordered.

Gloucester made headway with a passing run nicely carried out until J. Hamblin held on a bit too long and threw forward. Gloucester attacked strongly after this, a pretty bout of handling ending in Hudson being held outside by Cook. Northampton eased the pressure for a short period, but Hall with a lovely run cut out a fine opening. L. Hamblin received and fed Washbourne, but the wing man was sent to touch.

Immediately after a long throw out gave J. Hamblin a chance, but he fumbled. He, however, recovered and passed to his brother, who served Hudson, for the latter to burst over and score in a good position. L. Hamblin failed at goal.

On the drop out there was a spell of even play, until Dix and Hall opened out. The ball got across to Washbourne who tried hard but succumbed to a deadly tackle by Mobbs. Gloucester still maintained the attack, and had Hudson been able to gather an awkward pass he might have scored again.

A loose forward rush by the City was checked in time, and a penalty followed to the visitors for an infringement. This helped Northampton to get out of danger, and further kicks to touch improved their position.

A pretty bit of play between Hudson and J. Hamblin was checked in time, and a penalty enabled Northampton to press, and Gloucester were in danger for the first time. Working the blind side of the scrum Harrison fed Bradshaw, but the latter was pushed over the touch-line. Hall changed the venue, and Washbourne kicked out only to see Mobbs receive and punt back. Some fast open play followed, J. Hamblin and C. Cook being prominent, and the game was carried to mid-field. Here the home backs were again given possession, but Washbourne failed to accept.

Subsequent play favoured the City, and Dix, with a smart effort, secured a nice opening, but Hayes was pulled down ten yards from the line. The Northampton forwards came away from their line with a splendid dribble, which lost Gloucester a possible chance, and then sound tackling by Mobbs and Cook saved the visitors.

Gloucester, however, were showing superior form all round, and were again on the attack. Following some clever forward work, the ball was sent over the line, and Washbourne winning the race for the ball touched down for a try in the corner. L. Hamblin missed the place-kick.

Hall replied with a beautiful kick to the drop-out, and play continued in the Northampton half. Grand footwork by the home forwards nearly beat the defence, Hancock saving near the line. Earl was laid out just afterwards and retired. With this handicap Northampton had a severe task to keep their lines intact, but no further scoring took place before the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 1 goal, 2 tries
Northampton Nil

On the resumption Earl came back, but with a bandaged hand. Hall showed up cleverly in the first few minutes with some smart kicking.

A breakaway by Northampton from a line out took the ball past C. Cook, but a forward pass spoiled a possible opening. Dix served Hall inside his own 25, and the latter ran and passed to Washbourne, who though pulled over let the ball go. The home forwards dribbled right away, and Hancock was upset in trying to check.

Gloucester went right to the line in another burst, and then Dix opened out. J. Hamblin and Hudson were on the left with only Hancock to beat, but the former passed forward with the captain only to walk over the line.

From the next scrum Northampton were penalised, but L. Hamblin failed to land a goal and the visitors touched down. Following the restart there was a fine movement by the Gloucester backs, Washbourne just failing to cross after a capital effort.

Play was confined to the Northampton half, where the home players did a lot of handling, but little ground was made. Then a visiting forward broke clean away and passed to White, but C. Cook effected a grand tackle.

After being forced to touch down Gloucester took play to the other end, where there was a brilliant series of exchanges by the home backs.

Washbourne again had hard lines, a splendid burst just failing. He lost the ball on being tackled, and Mobbs picking up ran down and punted to touch inside the 25 – a complete change of venue.

Northampton, who were showing better form, attacked strongly, and after some pretty handling by the three-quarters Bradshaw scored wide out. The place kick failed.

Gloucester dropped out, and Holford failing to take the return a scrum followed inside the home half. The Northampton forwards showed up with a strong rush, but they were beaten back, and Dix forced a minor with a kick over the line. C. Cook, who was kicking grandly, put Gloucester in a good position, but they could not do anything.

The Northampton backs were set going by Harrison, but Bradshaw was well tackled by Washbourne. Then Hall with a beautiful cross punt gave his side a nice opening. The ball was fielded and got out to Hudson, but the latter's repass was spoiled. For off-side by Earl Northampton were penalised, but from a good position L. Hamblin could not cover the crossbar, a minor resulting.

The home forwards had fallen off in this half, and the backs as a consequence did not get the chances that fell to them in the first half. The visiting forwards secured the ball on the drop-out, and a punt down the field went to touch in the home half. Gloucester came away with a loose dribble, Mobbs being held before he could do anything.

From a long line out near the centre a visiting forward broke clean away, and on coming to Cook threw wide. Bradshaw fielded but could not round the opposition. From the scrum which followed Hall came away cleverly and sent to J. Hamblin, who fed Hudson. The captain, however, finished feebly. Gloucester played up strongly in subsequent play, but the attack lacked sting. Meadows broke away from a line out, but his pass was intercepted by Bradshaw when there was every chance of a score.

From this point Northampton took up the attack owing to feeble play by the home backs. Cook was pressed severely from a kick by his namesake, and soon after the visitors nearly scored. Near the end Gloucester came right away from the 25, and the ball being kicked past Hancock, L. Hamblin picked up near the line and scored under the posts. He failed at goal.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal, 3 tries (14 points)

Northampton 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

It was a well-contested and clean game, and if the exhibition failed to reach the standard of excellence expected there was a lot of good football witnessed.

Gloucester well deserved their eleven points lead at the interval, for in all departments the City were clearly superior. But with the change of ends there was a decided change in the fortunes of the game, and instead of adding appreciably to their score in the second half, Gloucester had to fight hard to hold their own. The home men certainly threw away some glorious chances, but Northampton, too, missed scoring opportunities with the defence apparently beaten.

Gloucester's form all round in the first half was capital. The forwards were able to control the ball in the scrums and heeled well, with the result that Dix and Hall were continually in evidence. Dix worked the scrum with great effect, bringing off the reverse pass with the happiest results, whilst he showed cleverness with his feet and got in some neat runs on his own.

Hall was at his best in taking his passes, and besides feeding his backs with great skill, his beautifully judged kicking, from almost any position, helped his side repeatedly. Earl was useful for Northampton, but he could not compare with Dix, and the same may be said of Harrison in comparison with Hall, even when the visiting pair were better served by the forwards.

The Gloucester three-quarters showed some bright football in the early stages, and some of the passing movements were exceedingly well carried out. The Brothers Hamblin both displayed smartness in cutting out openings, but the elder of the pair showed a falling off in the second half.

Hudson started promisingly, and scored his tries smartly, but a knock on the shoulder put him off his game subsequently, and he was weak in attack after the interval.

Washbourne was a whole-hearted trier all the way, and his splendid dashes deserved better reward. Mobbs and Cook, however, generally had the pace of him, and he was stopped two or three times when all but over the line.

Northampton did their best combined work late in the game. Mobbs, as usual, was the outstanding player on the side, and the old International brought his handing-off into play with a good deal of success.

Cook was not so conspicuous as formerly, and Bradshaw on the day's play was the better wing. Green, a recruit to the team, shaped promisingly, and should come on.

Forward, the City pack appeared to be content to sit on the lead obtained at the interval, for they fell off a lot afterwards. The work in the loose was fine at times, but the tackling and marking were weak.

Vears led the front well, and Holford, Pegler, Hayes, and Lodge showed up well individually. The East Midlanders were a hard-working lot, with White, Collins, and Bull the most prominent.

At full back C. Cook gave a brilliant display, and though Hancock made no serious mistake he was outshone by the City custodian on the day's play.

Scorers for Gloucester : Hudson (2), Washbourne, and L. Hamblin.
L. Hamblin converted one.

Next Saturday : Swansea, and Neath Monday (away).

GLOUCESTER A v RUSPIDGE

At Ruspidge.

Mumford and Sysum scored for Gloucester and Bevan for Ruspidge.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 tries (6 points)

Ruspidge 1 try (3 points)

JC