

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1912

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v CINDERFORD

CITY TEAM IN THE FOREST

VISITORS BEATEN BY A PENALTY GOAL

Owing to the curtailment of the railway service the Gloucester team had to make the journey to Cinderford to-day by road, a four horse char-a-banc being chartered to convey the party to the Forest.

The City players only arrived back from Paris at midnight on Friday after travelling some sixteen hours, and consequently were not in the best condition to contest such a keen game as Cinderford always put up against Gloucester.

This was the third meeting of the teams this season, each side having won once – Cinderford at Kingsholm on Mop Monday by 2 goals (1d 1p) 1 try (10 points) to 1 goal 1 try (8 points), and Gloucester at Cinderford by 1 goal 1 try (8 points) to 1 penalty goal (3 points). Holford, Berry, and L. Hamblin were unable to play for Gloucester, but Johns came back into the side. Cinderford were weakly represented.

Cinderford. – J. Hall; A. Robbins, M. Meek, G. Ellaway, and A. Hall; I. Woolford and J. Baker; E. Kilby, G. Lodge, G. Bowkett, W. Adams, Everett, G. Walkley, J. Greenman, and F. Russell.

Gloucester. – C. Cook; A. Hudson (capt.), J. Hamblin, F. Bloxsome, and W. Washbourne; W. Dix and W. Hall; G. Vears, G. Griffiths, W. Johns, N. Hayes, F. Pegler, J. Meadows, A. Lodge, and S. Smart.

THE GAME

Rain fell heavily before the start, making the ground greasy. Gloucester won the toss, and Meek kicked off down the slope for Cinderford, Cook relieving well. Cinderford rushed to the Gloucester half, but Cook pulled them up with a nice touch-finder beyond the centre mark. The home forwards rushed back again, but being penalised Cook found touch well.

Stroud/*sic*/ were penalised, and the return punt saw play inside the home half. Gloucester passed prettily, but Bloxsome was well tackled before getting into motion. Robbins dribbled well into the visitors' half. W. Hall charged the return of J. Hall's, and Gloucester invaded the home half. Baker broke away from a scrum, but kicked too hard, and Cook replied with interest. Dix stole away on the blind side, but Woolford tackled him before he could go far.

Gloucester were now dangerously near the home line, and Dix was fined for off-side, but Bowkett's kick was a very poor one. Cinderford were put in an attacking position by a good kick by Woolford and a short run by A. Hall, the ball getting across to the right, but Robbins was off-side and could not take advantage. Cook cleared cleverly from a bunch of tacklers and sent to Washbourne, but that player kicked short to touch.

Meek followed up a long kick, and W. Hall had to run over his own line to clear, but he found touch nicely. W. Hall, the next minute found touch well in the home half with a huge punt, but could not keep Cinderford out of the Gloucester quarters, and a free ensuing to the homesters, Bowkett landed a fine goal.

Cinderford sent the City back on the restart, but long kicking by W. Hall took play to the Cinderford 25, where Cook had a shot at goal from a penalty, but the ball went outside the posts. Robbins, with a short dash, gained ground for the homesters, and then Gloucester tried passing, but Hudson held too long, and A. Hall upset him.

Play hovered round the centre, Baker, who had done well all through, looking after Dix keenly. More passing by the City did not get beyond Hall, who was finely tackled, and then the interval came.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Cinderford 1 goal (p)
Gloucester Nil

Gloucester restarted play, preventing a return. Bloxsome was upset before he could kick after some passing. Then Cinderford tried handling at the centre, A. Hall being pushed over before he could get into his stride. Dix tried to get away on the blind side of the scrum, but slipped up.

Cinderford passed smartly, Meek punting through, but Ellaway knocked on or a score might have resulted. Passing by Gloucester did not gain much ground, and the next minute W. Hall was temporarily knocked out from a tackle by Robbins.

Cook got in some good kicks under difficulties, which aided Gloucester to invade the home territory. Good footwork by the Cinderford pack took play to the City quarters. W. Hall burst clean through the Cinderford backs after good passing, and gave to Hudson, who went ploughing over the line with two or three men hanging on to him, and a five yards scrum was ordered.

Cinderford touched down from the next scrum, and later Woolford cleared with a good kick to touch from half-way. Gloucester tried passing again and Hudson punted for the wing, but the ball went to touch.

Play was keen, so many men handling on both sides in a melee that it was impossible to follow. Washbourne made a short run clear of the bunch, but was well tackled. Ellaway gained a lead for Cinderford with a good kick. W. Hall left the field of play. A grand combined rush by the Cinderford forwards took play near the City quarter line, but Gloucester staved off the attack.

Bloxsome went away on the right but Adams legged him, and he rolled into touch. Passing by the City near the quarter line broke down, and Cinderford, who were now going strongly, passed well, and Robbins ran round behind the posts, but the last pass was ruled forward and the ball was brought back.

From the next scrum Woolford found touch near the corner flag, and from a position in front of goal Woolford took a drop, but the ball went just outside the posts. A minute later the end came.

RESULT :

Cinderford 1 goal (p) (3 points)
Gloucester Nil

REMARKS

It was a very good game considering the conditions. Both sides showed good form, but the home pack was certainly the better taking the game through. Hudson, W. Hall, Washbourne, and Dix all worked tremendously hard for the City, but met with a stubborn defence.

A. Hall, Robbins, Meek, Baker, Ellaway and Woolford were all good in turn. Both backs did well, both being severely tested at times.

On the run of the play Cinderford deserved to win, being just a little bit keener and quicker in their movements. Hall's injury, which is not serious, was sustained in the first place in a collision between him and Washbourne, both going for Robbins, and he was not tackled by Robbins as stated in the report; and a charge by Kilby necessitated him leaving the field.