

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1902

SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. BLACKHEATH

The weather was cold and dull, and this affected the attendance, which did not exceed 2,000. The teams turned out as advertised, the Gloucester players meeting with a good reception.

The visitors won the toss, and Blackheath started against the wind. Keys received, but was forced into touch at the 25. From the first scrum the home forwards heeled, and Rooke floored Wetham before he could move. The Gloucester forwards made headway with useful runs, but Scrimshire and Forrest got away with a passing run to Romans, who effected a grand tackle.

Blackheath pressed after this, the forwards heeling well, but the defence was very sound. A pretty dribble by Keys from the scrum brought relief. The same player was away down touch again almost immediately, and Scrimshire had some difficulty in saving. A beautiful bit of combination between the Gloucester front rank resulted in the Blackheath line being reached, but the final transfer was forward.

Gloucester still pressed, and from a penalty Romans forced a minor. On the drop-out the home forwards came away with a good rush, but Collett sent them back with a splendid kick to touch. From the throw-out Blackheath came clean away beyond the centre, and Romans had to run the ball out of play in his own 25. For off-side play Gloucester were penalised, but Rogers' shot for goal fell short. Some smart running and passing between Collett, Rooke, and C. Smith gave Gloucester a good opening, but the ball was lost when in a good scoring position. Stephens, from a pass by Keys, tried hard to break through, but he was held up.

Strong forward bursts enabled the Heathens to clear, but Gloucester retaliated and, following a combined rush, Westbury scored a try. Romans failed.

Restarting, Blackheath were at once prominent. After grand passing and running Whetham beat Romans and scored a fine try. Rogers goaled.

Gloucester restarted, and the game was very fast. Gloucester attacked strongly, but had no luck, though Stephens had very hard lines. Blackheath worked out of danger, but Westbury, picking up in the loose, passed to Collett, who cut through splendidly. On reaching Dixon the old Cantab threw to "Whacker" Smith, but the latter missed the pass with only five yards to go.

After this lucky escape the Blackheath forwards dribbled well, but Romans stopped them finely. After a spell of even play Westbury showed up with a clever dribble, and Dixon only saved in the nick of time from a scrum five yards out.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Blackheath 1 goal
Gloucester 1 try

Goulding started the second half and, following the exchange of kicks, play opened at the centre. The Blackheath forwards beat the visiting forwards in the scrum, and heeled cleverly. Early on there was a beautiful round of passing, but Finlinson failed to take Whetham's transfer with a possible opening. The Gloucester halves failing to gather, Scott dribbled smartly, and the City lines were placed in serious danger. The visiting forwards relieved slightly, but the ball getting loose Whetham dropped for goal, the ball going wide.

On the restart Scrimshire was conspicuous with a smart run and pass to Forrest, who took the ball nicely, and sprinting down the touch-line at a great pace, the old International cleared the opposition and finished a splendid effort by scoring behind the posts.

Forrest was tackled, and in falling damaged himself so badly that he had to be carried off the field. Rogers kicked a goal, and Blackheath thus established a substantial lead.

Resuming some good footwork was put in by the Gloucester forwards, but Brown effected some smart saves. Play for the next few minutes was confined to the home half, but the Gloucester backs were badly served by the forwards. A grand individual effort by Scrimshire placed Gloucester on the defensive, but the old Newportonian held too long.

In some loose play Lewis Smith distinguished himself with some clever footwork down touch, but he lost the ball on reaching Dixon. By the aid of Scott, who was playing a fine game, Blackheath worked out of danger, and in turn took up the attack. Thanks to some good kicking by Romans, Gloucester relieved, but the City team were not playing up to form, and their attack lacked sting.

Intercepting a pass from "Whacker" Smith to Stephens, Whetham easily secured a clear opening to Romans. The Blackheath centre punted over the latter's head, and there was a fine race between the two players named for possession. Whetham got up, but when in the act of falling on the ball, Romans kicked dead.

Though playing one short, Blackheath still had the best of the game, and Gloucester had plenty of stopping to do. The Londoners forced two more minors, and once or twice came very near scoring. For the next five minutes

Gloucester were beaten badly, but they recovered somewhat before the finish. Stephens made a couple of pretty breaks away, and Lewis Smith once looked like getting in, but Dixon tackled splendidly. The end was exciting, but there was no further scoring.

RESULT :

Blackheath 2 goals (10 points)
Gloucester 1 try (3 points)

GLOUCESTER A v. BARNWOOD

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 goals, 4 tries (22 points)
Barnwood Nil

JC