

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1903

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. NORTHAMPTON

THE RETURN GAME

GLOUCESTER WIN BY SIX POINTS

These teams met at Kingsholm for the return fixture, and there was every prospect of a close and interesting game.

Three weeks ago Gloucester were beaten by the Midlanders at Northampton by 8 points to 3, but had hopes of reversing that result to-day.

The City team had to deplore the services of Stephens (injured), Hudson (unwell), and Purton (taking a rest), but had the valuable assistance of Frank Stout.

L. Vears took Hudson's place at left wing three-quarter, and the vacancy at half was filled by G. Williams, who hails from Chepstow.

Another player who was making a first appearance for Gloucester was C. Coldrick, recently returned home from Colombo, where he had been serving with the 1st Gloucester Regiment.

The visitors had three changes forward, but otherwise had their selected side out.

Unpleasant weather prevailed, and there was but a moderate attendance of spectators present at 3 o'clock, the advertised time for starting.

The following were the teams : –

GLOUCESTER	Positions	NORTHAMPTON
G. Romans	Backs	W. Brown
C. Smith	Three-quarter	C. Leigh
C. Coldrick	backs.	R. Orton
G. F. Collett	"	F. Coles
L. Vears	"	L. Atterbury
L. F. Morgan	Half-backs	T. H. Preston
G. Williams	"	H. E. Kingston
A. H. Click	Forwards	J. Longland
Bert Parham	"	G. Burke
F. Westbury	"	A. Hobbs
G. H. Smith	"	E. Drage
F. M. Stout	"	J. West
F. Pegler	"	J. Mason
H. Harris	"	A. Johnson
W. Johns	"	H. Atterbury

Referee : Mr. G. Thomas (Bristol)

THE GAME

Gloucester won the toss, but as the players took the field it was discovered the referee had not put in an appearance. Mr. T. Workman, who was on the ground, consented to act, and Northampton started in the face of a terrible storm of rain.

Parham returned the kick-off to touch beyond the centre. From the first scrum the visiting halves were penalised, and Romans punted down to Brown, who returned to the City captain. The latter ran across the ground and passed to Coldrick, who was, however, upset before being able to clear. Gloucester were penalised next, but Vears replied well, and play was contested in the Northampton half.

Here several scrums were fought out, but little headway was made by either side. For palpable off-side by a visiting forward Gloucester got a free, and Brown only managed to get the ball into touch a few yards from his line.

A little later the City forwards, with a strong rush, took the ball over the line, but Brown touched down cleverly. On the drop-out Mr. Thomas (the appointed referee) took charge of the game. Coldrick was prominent with a strong run, but his pass to Smith was forward. Then Stout led a magnificent dribble by the City front rank, but Brown saved daringly.

Gloucester attacked strongly, and Morgan, with a clever feint, burst through in fine style. He passed at the right moment to Williams who tried hard to get round, but his effort was futile. Gloucester were nearly over from the next scrum, but Kingston brought the much-needed relief to his side with a clever kick to touch near mid-field. Northampton made further headway with a forward rush, but Williams getting hold he put in a big kick, which went half the length of the field and over the line, Brown conceding another minor.

Re-starting, Kingston was conspicuous with a sharp dash, but Vears floored the visiting captain in fine style. A tricky bit of play by Morgan at the scrum was supplemented by a capital effort by Stout, who took the ball down touch splendidly. Both packs of forwards worked hard, but Gloucester were the cleverer in the scrums, and heeled smartly several times.

Williams got away cleverly once from a pass by Morgan, and, throwing out to Vears, the latter cleverly eluded Atterbury and reached Brown. He then passed to Williams, who re-passed on the line to Vears, for the wing man to score in the corner. Romans made a good attempt at goal.

Northampton dropped out, but play was kept to their end. More combination by Williams and Vears looked promising, but the latter could not beat the defence this time. To the centre Northampton worked with a couple of useful kicks, and then Kingston punted across the field for his three-quarters. Coldrick, however, was on the ball, and ran strongly, but he passed badly to Smith. The latter twice in quick succession earned applause for clever work, which enabled Gloucester to maintain their advantage.

From a long throw-out Williams fielded grandly and cut out a capital opening, but Parham failed to gather when there was a good chance. Some close play followed this, Northampton doing well.

A dangerous rush was well stopped by Romans, who with a wonderful screw-kick to touch gained some 20 yards. From this point the ball was kicked across to Vears, who cross-punted. There was a splendid opening, but something went wrong in front of goal. However, Collett picked up and tried to drop a goal, but the ball went wide of the posts.

Soon after the re-start "Whacker" Smith, from a kick by Vears, looked likely to score, but he essayed a pass, which was spoiled by Brown. Gloucester still attacked, but Northampton eventually gained relief with a big rush. Coldrick and Romans effected good tackles when matters looked dangerous, and Morgan, with a flying kick, saved the situation.

Kingston and Preston just now were prominent with clever work at the scrummage, but the passing went astray. A good forward rush was well checked by Romans, who gathered at the feet of his opponents and with a lovely kick found touch at mid-field. Half-time was then called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 try
Northampton	1 try

Gloucester resumed, and Johns taking the reply kicked to touch at half-way. Play operated here for a while, till Morgan missing at the scrum, Kingston dribbled away to the home 25, where Collett pulled him up. Gloucester were placed in a dangerous position for a minute, but a grand dribble, headed by Parham, relieved to the centre. Here Morgan got hold and started a bout of passing, and some neat transfers saw Williams, Coldrick, Collett, and Vears handle, but the latter was thrown into touch by Brown.

Immediately after Williams brought off a brilliant run, in which he cut the opposing backs cleverly, but he stumbled and fell when in sight of the goal. More passing by the Gloucester backs evoked hearty cheering, but the visitors tackled well. "Whacker" Smith and Vears both made sharp dashes, and by these efforts Gloucester obtained a footing well inside the East Midlanders' 25. Morgan was hurt at this point, but was able to resume after a couple of minutes' rest.

Scrambling play followed, but a lucky kick by Coles enabled Northampton to change the venue to the Gloucester quarter. Off-side by Morgan gave Northampton a penalty, but Kingston's shot for goal fell short. Romans received and ran and punted, but Brown made his mark, and thereby stopped a dangerous move.

There was nothing much in subsequent play, and the game continued on fairly even terms. Again Morgan got his side penalised, and with the kick Kingston found touch at the Gloucester 25 line. Williams, with a smart dash, took the ball down touch cleverly, but Brown saved in grand style. Soon afterwards another combined rush by the City forwards took play down to Brown, but the Northampton custodian was not to be beaten.

Operations still hovered in the Northampton half, but there was not much open play. Stout made a mark cleverly in a fair position for a shot at goal, and Collett endeavoured to cover the cross-bar. A grand kick, however, fell a few inches short, a touchdown only resulting.

Coldrick replied to the kick-out, but Northampton, working well together, reached the home 25. Williams gained ground in good style, and then a passing bout saw Coldrick cut clear through to Brown. The centre had "Whacker" Smith on his right, and a try appeared certain, but to the disappointment of the crowd Smith knocked on. Northampton were hotly pressed for a brief period, but Brown brought relief with a useful kick, which the Gloucester players thought was going to touch. The ball, however, bounded inside the field of play, and a visitor securing, he ran beyond the centre.

There was some extraordinary play after this, the result of which left operations at midfield. Kingston and Preston put their side in a good position, but Romans came round finely, and a series of transfers enabled Vears to make a lot of ground. Back Northampton came, but Gloucester retaliated, and following a splendid loose rush Westbury scored in the corner. Collett failed at goal.

Northampton re-started, and there was some smart play on both sides. Vears made another good dash down touch and cross-kicked, but the ball got amongst the visitors who saved. Play to the end was well contested, but nothing further in the way of scoring was accomplished.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 tries (6 points)
Northampton Nil

REMARKS

Gloucester's victory was hailed with a good deal of satisfaction, and on the day's play the City team well deserved their points. It was not a great game to watch, there being a lot of scrambling play and erratic movements on the part of both teams. Gloucester were the smarter side, but at no point was their superiority at all pronounced.

Forward, both packs worked hard, and the City men were kept well together by Frank Stout. At one period the Gloucester eight showed the better form in the scrums, but they did not maintain the advantage, and the Northampton half-backs had the ball rather more than Morgan and Williams.

It was a good struggle between the rival pairs, and in the course of the game some really clever combination was exhibited. Kingston took a lot of watching, and in this respect Morgan, in his anxiety not to let the Northampton captain get away, several times was found on the wrong side of the scrum. Penalties followed as a matter of course, but in only one instance was the position favourable for a shot at goal.

Williams made a successful first appearance with the City team, and he proved his ability on several occasions. With Stephens on the injured list Williams' help should prove valuable to Gloucester in the remaining matches.

At three-quarter, attention must in the first place be directed to Vears, who played an exceptionally good game. Most of the attacking work on the Gloucester side went to the left wing, and Vears gave absolutely nothing away. He showed praiseworthy dash in all his work, and when pressed displayed resource and intelligence which proved invaluable to his side. Collett did not distinguish himself in any department, and "Whacker" Smith was not seen to advantage, except in tackling.

Coldrick, at right centre, played a strong game, and Gloucester can regard him as a useful reserve. At present he lacks the necessary finesse, especially in giving his passes, but experience in good class football should help him considerably.

Of the Gloucester forwards, Stout was always noticeable, and the International did one or two fine dribbles. Harris was smart in following up and in the lines out, and Parham, G. Smith, and Westbury were generally to be seen in loose rushes. The tackling at times was weak, due to the men going too high for opponents.

Romans made no mistake at full-back, and played quite up to his best form. He put in some splendid kicks during the game, and was safe in fielding and gathering. On the other side Brown, too, gave a splendid account of himself. Repeatedly he was called upon to stop dangerous rushes, but he showed wonderful nerve and got his side out of numerous difficulties in clever fashion. In kicking also the visiting custodian made a really good show.

In the third line Northampton were best served by Coles and Leigh. They passed smartly at times, but judgment was at fault when there was likelihood of an opening. The forwards were a hard working lot, and kept up the pace to the finish.

GLOUCESTER A v CINDERFORD A

CITY SECONDS BADLY BEATEN

Played at Cinderford. Owing to defections at the late moment the City Seconds only took down a poor team, and they had little prospect of defeating the formidable Foresters.

The teams were as follows : –

Gloucester A. – Romans, back; A. Hawker, F. Oswell, H. Miller, and G. Vears, three-quarter backs; H. Smith and J. Barnes, half-backs; J. Jewell, T. Spires, W. Jones, H. Taylor, J. Marshall, G. Gough, F. Pyart, and W. Bray, forwards.

Cinderford. – F. Fields (capt.), back; J. Wright, C. Burgum, H. Williams, and W. Smith, three-quarter backs; T. Willstead and W. Hall, half-backs; W. Leighton, S. Brain, A. Brain, J. Newman, E. Embling, T. Williams, F. McAvoy, and H. Ridler, forwards.

The homesters started and took the play to the visitors' line, but a free gave them relief, and play came to half way, Gloucester using their feet to advantage. Cinderford passed well. Then Williams saved well.

The homesters were now pressing, Romans making a plucky save. Soon after Brain scored for Cinderford in the corner, Fields failing at goal. The homesters pressed up to half-time.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Cinderford	1 try
Gloucester A	Nil

The re-start saw Cinderford pressing, but the visitors defended gamely. S. Brain made a good attempt to score, but Romans touched down.

Gloucester worked out to half-way, but Burgum took play to the 25. Willstead looked to have scored, but it proved otherwise. Then Burgum scored, Fields failing.

S. Brain (2) and Willstead also scored, none of which were converted. S. Williams led up to Brain's second try with a smart run.

RESULT :

Cinderford 5 tries (15 points)

Gloucester A Nil

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