

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1903

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. DEVONPORT ALBION

CITY TEAM AT DEVONPORT

HARD FOUGHT GAME

ENDS IN A POINTLESS DRAW

After an interval of five years Gloucester and Devon Albion resumed fixtures, the first meeting taking place on the Albion ground at Devonport.

Gloucester, who made the long journey overnight, were short of Parham and Westbury (forward); and J. Thorne (Yorkley), who created such a favourable impression at half against Bristol, was also unable to accept the invitation to assist the City Club.

This let in Morgan, who resumed his partnership with Stephens.

The Albion had a powerful fifteen out, and on form certainly had the advantage over their opponents, who are weaker this season than for some years past.

Last week the Devonians defeated London Welsh by 13 points to 3, and their full record for the season shows eight victories, as against one solitary defeat – Cardiff.

The match aroused great interest in the Three Towns, and the renewal of fixtures between the clubs afforded the greatest satisfaction.

The following were the teams : –

GLOUCESTER	Positions	DEVON ALBION
G. Romans	Backs	S. Irvin
C. Smith	Three-quarter	E. Clark
G. Foulkes	Backs	E. J. Vivyan
A. Hudson	"	S. Skinner
L. Vears	"	C. H. Hoskins
J. Stephens	Half-Backs	T. Coombes
L. F. Morgan	"	J. Beaton
F. Pegler	Forwards	W. Spiers
F. Goulding	"	S. H. Williams
J. Gough	"	T. H. Willcocks
W. Johns	"	R. Gilbert
A. Hawker	"	R. Jackett
A. Purton	"	J. Evans
G. Vears	"	Mills
H. Taylor	"	Rooks

Rain fell throughout the night and morning, and the ground was like a quagmire. There were about 3,000 spectators when Spiers kicked off for the Albion, and a scrum was formed close to the centre line.

A loose forward rush by Gloucester took them to the Albion side of the line, but clever work by Beaton saw the Albion invade Gloucester ground, Romans turning the ball into touch.

Scrambling play favoured Gloucester, and a good dribble by Hawker gained ground. Stephens attempted to steal away from a scrum, but slipped into touch.

Inch by inch the visitors gained ground, but the Albion broke up a scrum, and reached the Gloucester 25. Here a punt across the field by Smith reached Irvin, who kicked to touch a few yards from the Gloucester line. Romans replied with a heavy punt.

A bout of exciting passing caused Gloucester some trouble, but Goulding brought relief with a fine dribble. Another likely quarter movement by the Albion was spoilt by a bad transfer from Vivyan to Clark.

Albion maintained the pressure, and Romans was forced to kick dead. A useful touch kick by Beaton put the Albion in a good position, but C. Smith brought them up by a daring tackle.

Play hovered round the Gloucester goal, but the visitors' defence was sound. A good kick by Romans brought relief, but the Albion again invaded the visitors' 25, and a penalty kick brought them but small advantage.

Albion were determined in their efforts to cross, and a likely movement was stopped by Vears picking up smartly and finding touch. Romans marked a lofty punt by Vivyan, but the kick was negated by a man in front of the ball.

The game was almost entirely fought out in the Gloucester 25, but Albion's efforts to open out the game was not of much advantage, it being practically impossible to hold the ball. After Romans had saved, Morgan gave his side a footing in the Albion half with a fine kick, and further ground was gained by Johns collaring Irvin in possession. A free kick against Gloucester sent them back to their own 25. A grand rush, headed by Vears, took Gloucester to the Albion 25, but the interval arrived with no score.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester Nil

Albion Nil

RESULT :

Gloucester Nil

Devon Albion Nil

GLOUCESTER A v. ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE

NARROW WIN FOR THE SECONDS

These teams met at Kingsholm before a mere handful of spectators. Gloucester kicked off in a drizzling rain, but the opening proceedings were very quiet. Baldwin at length got in a smart run for the home team, and passing between Rigby and Curtis enabled the latter to get near the line.

In the scrum which followed the Gloucester forwards took the ball over, and S. Curtis was credited with a try. Pugh kicked a fine goal from near the touchline.

Resuming, the College left wing threequarter (Oaten) ran in good style, and was only pushed into touch at the home 25. Cook brought relief to Gloucester with some clever kicks, and Romans further improved matters with a smart break-away. Passing looked promising for a score, but Rigby held too long, and the ball getting loose Oaten kicked to touch at the centre.

The College gained ground as the result of a loose forward rush, but Baldwin replied with a useful punt which sent play back to midfield. Ensuing play was very scrambling, due in a large measure to the greasy state of the ball and ground, which made accurate handling extremely difficult. The Gloucester forwards at length got in a useful burst, and the ball was eventually taken across the line, but a visitor kicked dead.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 1 goal
St. Paul's College Nil

The visitors resumed, and there being no return operations opened in the home half. A free to Gloucester for off-side by the College half-backs enabled Pugh to send to touch at the centre. Romans, with a clever bit of footwork, made further headway, and then Cook brought off a clever run, but in attempting to cut inside the full-back he slipped and fell.

After this Gloucester pressed severely, but mistakes near the line lost a couple of certain tries. Eventually the College gained relief by conceding a minor.

Following the drop-out there was a spell of even play at mid-field, but the football displayed was of the scrambling order. The College halves opened out the game a bit, and neat combination led to an attack on the home line, but hesitation lost a possible chance of scoring. The visitors, however, had much the better of subsequent exchanges, and for several minutes the home lines were subjected to severe pressure.

Gloucester eventually conceded a minor, but this brought them no relief, as they were soon placed on the defensive again. The College worked in front of the home goal, and the ball coming out to Gent he picked up and dropped a neat goal.

After this reverse, the Seconds played up strongly, and Carr, from a pass, ran and cross-kicked, but the ball went over the line, and only a touchdown resulted.

Subsequent play showed the College to advantage, and Gloucester losing a large slice of ground through off-side play, the home team were placed on the defensive. Pugh eventually saved by touching down. Nothing further of note occurred.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 1 goal (5 points)

St. Paul's 1 goal (d) (4 points)

REMARKS

A very even game, but for the most part of an uninteresting character. The College were superior forward especially in the scrums, and they had one or two smart men behind, but the wretched weather militated against correct handling. Consequently there were numerous mistakes on both sides.

For Gloucester, Cook was the most noticeable of the three-quarters; whilst Pugh played a capital game at full-back. Gent performed well for the Collegians at half, and his dropped goal was a smart effort.

JC