

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1904

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER'S VICTORY AT NORTHAMPTON

Our Northampton correspondent writes : Gloucester's victory over Northampton was splendidly worked for, and thoroughly well-earned by meritorious all-round play. From the moment George Romans set the ball going the visitors showed praiseworthy dash and determination.

In the first half they completely outplayed Northampton. The forwards were quicker on the ball; the three-quarters exhibited superior combination; and good as Leigh was at back Romans was better. Indeed it was one of the Gloucester backs' very best days. At half the men were well matched, both pairs showing alertness, resource, and skill.

Gloucester's third try was the result of some admirable short passing, Parham scoring under the posts. Romans just missed the mark; but he made no mistake when Harrison soon afterwards by doubling and dodging scored the visitors' second point.

Northampton opened the second half in most resolute fashion, and so well did the Brothers Kingston play that danger several times threatened. Then Gloucester lost Hawker, who collided heavily with the Northampton back when he looked almost certain to score. For a brief period after this Gloucester had a little anxiety, but settling down to their work they gradually wore down their opponents.

A misunderstanding between Mason and Leigh let in the Gloucester forwards, who put in a dashing dribble, with a try to Goulding at the end of it. Romans made a fine effort to convert, the ball hitting the upright and falling the wrong side of the cross-bar so far as the attacking side was concerned.

But then followed delightful running and passing three parts the length of the field by the Gloucester backs with Stephens successful in a beautiful effort. Romans majorised, and although Northampton made desperate efforts to score in the last few minutes, the Gloucester defence was sound, and a handsome 16 points' victory wound up the season in grand style for the red and whites.

The Northampton spectators greatly admired the fine play of Gloucester, and they will look forward to another visit from the Westerners with much pleasurable interest.

JC