

THE CITIZEN
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1922.

FOOTBALL.

CITY'S BAD LUCK AT CARDIFF.

FOURTEEN POINTS DOWN IN EXTREMELY FAST AND OPEN GAME.

FORWARDS' CLEVER AND DASHING DISPLAY IN THE LOOSE.

W. Dix made a welcome reappearance with the City team at Cardiff to-day, but the visitors still lacked the services of Kerwood, whilst Holford, Harris and Hughes were also enforced absentees. The County Captain was suffering with a boil on the arm, but it is hoped he will be all right for the County match on Thursday.

Gloucester won the first match at Kingsholm by the narrow margin of 5 points to 3, but the City's recent form did not suggest a repeat victory this afternoon. After a very lean period, Cardiff have struck their old form during the past fortnight, and with the return of all their invalid and injured players the Welshmen were strongly represented.

Teams : —

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : R. H. James.

THREE-QUARTERS: N. Daniell, F. Meadows, F. Webb, and S. Brown.

HALF-BACKS: W. Dix and T. Millington.

FORWARDS: S. Smart (capt.), M. Evans, F. Ayliffe, A. Hall, Major Roderick, H. W. Collier, H. G. Mountford, and S. Bayliss.

CARDIFF.

BACK: Dr. T. Wallace.

THREE-QUARTERS: J. Powell, R. A. Cornish (capt.), Clem Lewis, and T. Johnson.

HALF-BACKS: T. C. Dean and D. C. Davies.

FORWARDS: I. Richards, Dr. Roche, J. Prosser, W. Cornish, J. Grant, I. Thomas, A. Dalrymple, and P. Rowlands.

Referee : Mr. J. P. Matthews (Taff's Well).

THE GAME.

The weather was brilliantly fine, and the ground, which had been covered, appeared in good condition for a fast, open game. The Great Western excursion was fairly well patronised by Gloucester supporters, and the attendance reached about 10,000.

Cardiff kicked off prompt to time, and from the first line-out Meadows gathered and put in a short burst and kick, which gained 20 yards. Cardiff heeled, but the passing went astray and the visitors centred play. A dashing burst by the Cardiff forwards was well stopped by James, and this movement led to an attack on the City line. This was effectively checked, but a couple of minutes later Dean opened out, and after handling by Davies, Cornish and Powell, the latter, though tackled, managed to score in the corner. The place-kick failed.

Resuming, the Gloucester forwards showed up with a good loose dribble, but they were beaten back. James getting a kick charged down, the visitors were placed in danger. Cardiff quickly got the ball out, and Cornish receiving he slipped the defence and scored near the posts. The goal-kick failed.

Six points up in ten minutes was bad for Gloucester, but the City restarted with vigour. The forwards carried the ball well down the field, and Millington, snapping up the ball, had a fine opening, but with only Wallace to beat the City vice-captain unfortunately slipped and just failed to cross. The ball was next kicked across to the right wing, where Daniell and then Webb just missed touching down.

Cardiff did some smart attacking on the re-start, but the defence held out. A clever effort by Webb, who cut through smartly and punted past Wallace, gave Gloucester a good position. Ayliffe missed a try very unluckily; but Gloucester persevering, Dix beat Dean and scored from a scrum five yards out. Millington failed at goal.

Subsequent play was fast and interesting, Brown doing some fine clearing work. Cardiff opened out from the loose and lines-out nicely, and from one of these passing movements Powell raced over in the corner. The place-kick failed.

Webb and James distinguished themselves for Gloucester on the resumption, and the forwards dribbled brilliantly, forcing a touchdown. This was repeated later, and Wallace losing the ball when tackled on the line, Mountford scored a try, which Millington converted from the touch-line.

This reduced Cardiff's lead to a point. Exciting play followed the restart. Gloucester, with a fine dash, attacked, Brown being tackled on the line after a splendid dodgy run. Then Cardiff changed the venue, and after some neat handling and a run by Cornish, Prosser scored, and Wallace added the goal points.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
CARDIFF 1 goal, 3 tries
GLOUCESTER 1 goal, 1 try

The first half had been productive of some fine football, Gloucester doing extremely well, but experiencing bad luck on three distinct occasions when scoring chances presented themselves. Cardiff had the better of the heeling, and their backs ran and passed well at times. Gloucester's best work was in loose footwork, where the men showed extreme cleverness and [word unreadable].

Play on the restart favoured Cardiff, who attacked with passing, but Lewis held on too long. Webb was instrumental in putting Gloucester down, and later James, after a twenty yards' run, punted to touch inside the Cardiff 25. The Cardiff forwards, with a dashing burst, shifted play to beyond mid-field, but Brown sent them back again.

Cardiff were continually getting the ball out, but the backs made frequent mistakes, coupled with which the marking of the Gloucester men was very close. A movement by Cornish sent Johnson going on the left wing, but the International was brought down.

Then glaring off-side by the Cardiff forwards was allowed to go unchecked by the referee, and the City line narrowly escaped. Resuming, play was contested amongst the forwards, and in this department Gloucester more than held their own.

A lot of loose, scrambling exchanges followed inside the visitors' half, the ball being kicked over the line. Daniell conceded a minor, and just at this period the standard of the play had deteriorated; but it was exceptionally keen, and the tackling on both sides was terrific.

The drop out did not bring relief to Gloucester, and there was danger from a cross-kick under the goal. Brown, however, gathered, and punted to touch finely. After this Gloucester broke away, and Dix and Brown worked the touch line nicely, gaining twenty yards. Then some clever inter-passing by Gloucester looked all over for a score but a smothering tackle was effected at the critical moment.

Daniell, on the right, brought off a fine run and cross kick, but Wallace marked under pressure. Working finely together the City had the better of the exchanges, and fast following up by Smart saw Wallace tackled in possession. Cardiff were lucky in escaping twice, and eventually they had to touch down from an unsuccessful drop at goal by Webb.

Gloucester had a fine chance of adding to their score immediately after the resumption, but they were foiled in time. Cardiff replied with a long dribble, and Powell scored behind the posts. Wallace converted.

Gloucester afterwards held their own.

RESULT :

CARDIFF 2 goals 4 tries (22 pts.)
GLOUCESTER 1 goal 1 try (8 pts.)

REMARKS.

Gloucester made a much better fight than the scoring would suggest. Until the last five minutes the City had the better of the second half, but their luck was dead out when it came to scoring. Cardiff held the advantage in the scrums, and the backs had heaps of chances, but the handling was very erratic, and the ball was thrown about in a most careless fashion.

Gloucester did finely in open footwork and deserved better results. The whole eight did well in this department, and lasted splendidly. Hall, Roderick, Ayliffe, Evans and Smart were perhaps the most noticeable, but there was not much to choose between the players.

Behind a pack not successful in getting the ball Dix was greatly handicapped, but when allowed opportunities he showed all his old cleverness. Millington played soundly, and well, but his chances in attack were very limited.

At three-quarter there was little in the way of combined movements by the Gloucester men, and the best work was mainly individual. Webb and Sid Brown shone in this respect, the latter play in with great distinction. Several of his clearances under pressure were extremely smart, and he had hard lines in not scoring after a very special effort.

James had a trying afternoon, and on the whole came out successfully. His kicking was not of great length, but for the most part his fielding and saving were satisfactory.

The refereeing was very faulty, to say the least, and Cardiffians generally admitted the official was weak.

Next Week : Newport, at Kingsholm.

W.B.

GLOUCESTER A AGAIN DEFEATED.

A DISASTROUS SECOND HALF.

Cardiff A visited Kingsholm to-day for the return match with Gloucester A. There was a large attendance, the weather being glorious.

Gloucester A. – S. Williams; S. R. Crowther, A. E. Hopcroft, T. Wadley, and J. C. Collett; F. Brown and G. Cole; T. Coulson, J. Rea, J. H. Webb, F. Mansell, G. Bishop, C. Mumford, A. E. Taylor, and R. Curtis.

Cardiff A. – W. Horwood; W. Arthur, S. Lindsay, McCarthy, and C. Bryant; W. Morgan and W. Higginson; T. O'Brien, E. Williams, H. Lewis, L. Rees, A. Phenie, W. Symonds, N. Payne, and G. Evans.

Referee : J. H. Babbage.

The Cardiff team were led out by their schoolboy mascot.

Gloucester A kicked off, and the forwards made an incursion into the Cardiff half. They were pulled up, and the Welshmen made a dash to the home quarters, Collett picking up and checking nicely. Then Gloucester worked down to the visitors' goal line, and excitement was keen for a few moments until Horwood relieved with a kick to touch.

The home team kept up the pressure, and in the course of a rough and tumble in front of the Welsh goal the ball was touched down, but a scrum was ordered.

Cardiff gained relief and made a dash into the home territory, Collett first checking with a nice touchfinder, and Williams a minute or two later putting in a smart run and kick to touch, which put the visitors again on the defensive.

Gloucester had a possible chance, the ball being kicked across the field, but Collett failed to gather, and it went to touch. A moment later, however, the same player brought off a champion move which led to Gloucester's first try. He picked up in the loose, cut through and with a couple of men hanging on kicked across field for a bunch of the Gloucester men to fall on the ball. The try was credited to Mansell.

The Welshmen now put a bit more ginger into the game, and Arthur was prominent with a good run, and a little later Horwood ran strongly, and on being tackled passed to Lindsay, who had a clear run in, but the transfer was forward. A couple of dashes by the home forwards were stopped by the visiting backs picking up smartly, and as a result of one of these movements play was dangerously near the home line for some time. Then the home pack got the ball back, and Cole sent to touch outside the home quarter.

The home Seconds again carried play to the Welsh end, where Cole was again helpful with a well-judged touchfinder. Cardiff were penalised, and Collett essayed a kick for goal, but it was a poor effort. Cardiff were next awarded a penalty in Gloucester territory, but they gained little ground.

The game continued to be keenly contested, each side attacking in turn.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 1 try
Cardiff A Nil

On the resumption Wadley put in a nice run, but was pulled down, and mid-field play ensued. Then the Cardiff backs secured, and Arthur sent to touch inside the Gloucester 25, where a keen forward struggle took place. The home team gained ground from a penalty, and Collett further improved matters. Much amusement was caused by Collett who, fielding well, put in a short run, but was tackled by the leg. His opponent could not pull him down, and while being held by the left leg he got in a kick to touch with his right foot.

Both teams were all out now, and the forwards were engaged in a tremendous struggle, with the home men having slightly the better of it. Cardiff, however, worked down to the home quarter, where Higginson secured in the open and dropped a lovely goal, giving his side a point lead. Following this success the Cardiff backs handled, but Lindsay, with only Williams to beat, was brought down finely by the home custodian.

Gloucester A were quite out of luck, and a further disaster befell them, Higginson taking another drop for goal and gaining success with an almost impossible kick.

The home backs now tried handling, but while Brown and Cole did well the three-quarters could do nothing right, Hopcroft being badly at fault.

Gloucester A were now entirely on the defensive, and had great difficulty in keeping Cardiff out. They persevered for a time, and then the ball was kicked from one back to another until Arthur picked up and ran in without opposition. Lindsay converted.

Before the end Crowther brought off a spectacular run, but he kicked ahead, and Horwood, getting back, sent to touch.

RESULT :

Cardiff A 3 goals (2d) (13 points)

Gloucester A 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

Although Gloucester A put up a good fight in the first half, it was obvious that they were all out, and soon after the interval Cardiff A showed their superiority.

The home forwards put up a capital fight in the loose, but they were well held in the scrums, Brown and Cole having few chances to set the three-quarters going. This was just as well, perhaps, for the back division were again very weak, being frightfully slow on the uptake and handling in a faulty manner when there were chances.

Williams played quite a good game at full-back, and could not have prevented either score. He did not find touch any too readily, however. It was not until the concluding stages that the visiting pack gained the ascendancy; but all through their backs were smarter and took a great deal of holding. Higginson's two dropped goals were very fine efforts.

JC