

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1923.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER FAIL AT LLANELLY.

WELSHMEN TOO GOOD FOR DISORGANISED CITY TEAM.

VISITORS OUTCLASSED IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.

For their match at Llanelly to-day Gloucester again experienced great difficulty in getting a side together. Voyce, Hall, and Ayliffe (injured), and Coulson were not available forward, and with Holford and Roderick retired, and other players unable to make the long journey, the pack was completed by the inclusion of G. Clutterbuck (of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich), son of Mr. A. B. Clutterbuck, City Treasurer, and F. J. Seabrook (son of the Rev. J. H. Seabrook), both home on holiday. These two players, with I. Armstrong, of the City Seconds, and G. Hogg (who took the place of Hughes, at outside half) were making their debüt in first-class football. In contrast with the City, Llanelly had a published list of 20 players from which to make their final selection !

Under the circumstances, and with Gloucester's unenviable record of an uninterrupted run of defeats in Wales for years past, the outlook for the visitors was most discouraging. A. Manns accompanied the City team as reserve.

GLOUCESTER.

FULL-BACK : R. James.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. Miller, F. Meadows, T. Millington (capt.), and S. A. Brown.

HALF-BACKS : W. Collins and G. Hogg.

FORWARDS : S. Bayliss, H. W. Collier, J. Merry, P. Carter, E. Triggs-Herbert, I. Armstrong, G. Clutterbuck, and F. J. Seabrook.

THE GAME.

The weather was dull, and the attendance about 6,000. Llanelly were without Dai John.

Llanelly kicked-off, and Meadows returned to the centre. Gloucester heeled from the first scrum, and Collins put in a useful kick to touch. Fumbling by Llanelly allowed the visiting forwards to rush to their quarter, but Albert Jenkins put in a relief punt to touch.

Llanelly worked down, but the Gloucester forwards dribbled from a line-out. A. John cut through and punted, but James made a mark. Elwyn Evans fielded and sprinted for the line, but was pushed to touch.

Llanelly attacked strongly, but their three-quarters made mistakes and the Gloucester backs put up a fine defence. A forward rush led by Carter led to an attack, and Millington took a shot for goal from a penalty, but the kick fell short.

Gloucester attacked for a time, and then M. Evans picked up in the loose and, running strongly, sent to Albert Jenkins, who gave the "dummy" and then passed to Finch, who returned to him for JENKINS to score. Ivor Jones failed with the kick.

Undaunted, Gloucester played up pluckily, and Millington, picking up, ran well. He sent a wide pass to Brown, who, however, was too well marked by Elwyn Evans. Thomas put in a long punt, but James fielded and again put Gloucester on the attack.

Carter showed up well in a forward burst, but Thomas sent play back. The Llanelly forwards were getting the ball back now, but their backs were well tackled. Finch looked like getting away from a pass by Jenkins, but the transfer rolled forward. The Gloucester forwards heeled, but Hogg slipped, and it was only with difficulty Millington sent to touch.

A series of blunders by the Llanelly backs led to a sharp attack by the Gloucester forwards, Seabrook leading, but Thomas with a flying kick relieved. Llanelly got the ball out, but the three-quarters fumbled badly, and lost chances by wild passing.

Gloucester were playing very well, their young forwards putting up a good struggle in the loose. Collins was quite a match for John, but Hogg was at fault at times.

A forward rush by Llanelly carried play to the visitors' line, and PHILLIPS fell over with the home team's second try, which also went unconverted.

Llanelly were opening up well, but their backs were not clean, Albert Jenkins being inclined to give wild passes.

Llanelly were nearly over from a scrum in the Gloucester quarter, but M. Evans jumped and was brought down by a fine tackle by Brown, and Miller sent to touch. Millington broke through splendidly and ran for twenty yards, but his pass to Brown was forward.

Hogg knocked on a nice pass from Collins, and then Gloucester got off-side in a dangerous position, but Jenkins' kick was a yard wide.

Millington misfielded a high punt, and IVOR JONES ran in with a nice try unopposed, and converted.

HALF-TIME :

LLANELLY 1 goal, 2 tries

GLOUCESTER Nil

Gloucester had been over-run by the Llanelly backs, who should have piled up more points than they did.

Resuming without Albert Jenkins, who did not look fit, Llanelly executed a very fine attack, their three-quarters inter-passing splendidly. They rushed to the Gloucester line, but Millington intercepted and sent to touch.

The ball travelled across the ground, and FINCH punted over James' head, and moving at a great speed gained a try in the corner, the kick failing.

The City forwards, led by Merry, dribbled down, but they were checked by Thomas, who punted high. Hogg jumped for the ball with the idea of making a mark and collided with Elwyn Thomas, and was knocked out, having to be carried from the field. Millington took his place, Carter coming out of the pack. Jenkins having now returned, Gloucester were handicapped. Llanelly immediately pressed, and after the three-quarters had handled BOOLE went over with a try. The extra points were not added.

Hogg, who was not so badly hurt as he appeared to have been, now resumed. Gloucester played up better, the forwards carrying the game into the home territory. They held their ground for a time, aided by good touch-kicking by Millington. Gloucester bunched in a line-out and, led by Seabrook and Collins, rushed the ball over the line for HOGG to touch down behind the posts. Millington had no difficulty with the place kick.

A couple of fine runs by the Llanelly backs added another try by ALBERT JENKINS, who fielded a cross-kick by John. Ivor Jones converted.

Gloucester's defence had weakened badly, the backs being quite unable to stop the dashing runs of the home forwards. The City were now defending desperately, having all their work cut out to keep the score down.

Brown knocked on when he had a chance of getting away. M. Evans ran strongly for Llanelly, but could not get through. Gloucester gained relief with a forward burst. Thomas fielded and sent to touch in the City quarter, and the visitors were again hard pressed. A drop kick from a penalty failed, but James' return was charged down. Millington, however, got back and conceded a minor.

Llanelly were now all over Gloucester, and it was only a matter of keeping the score down. James helped with a flying kick, but again the Llanelly backs rushed for the line, and Evans was only pushed to touch in the corner. Boole fouled Collins, and a good touch kick by Millington put Gloucester into the Llanelly territory, but the attack failed.

RESULT :

LLANELLY 2 goals, 4 tries (22 points)
GLOUCESTER 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS.

Gloucester were entirely outclassed in all departments after the first fifteen minutes, during which they had one or two chances. They fell away badly. The forwards were outweighed and over-run, and the backs were by no means smart enough. The Gloucester tackling, especially in the second half, was very bad, and had Llanelly taken all their chances the score would have been much heavier.

Millington and Brown played a hard game, and Collins gave Boole a difficult time. Carter was the outstanding player in the Gloucester pack, playing with dash and good judgment. Collier and Seabrook were also prominent. Albert Jenkins gave strength to the Llanelly backs, who played a fast, open game. Of their forwards, Bobbie Evans, Ivor Jones, and Francis were on top.

GLOUCESTER A v. LYDBROOK.

RUNAWAY VICTORY FOR CITY SECONDS.

Lydbrook appeared at Kingsholm to-day, to meet the City Second string in the return game, the first match on the Wyesiders' ground having resulted in a win for the A team by 14 points to nil.

Despite the calls made by the premier eleven[*sic*], the "A" fielded a strong side, and a good sporting game was anticipated.

Teams : –

Gloucester A. – S. Williams; R. N. Loveridge, E. C. Fisher, S. R. Crowther, and N. Daniell; G. Poole and J. Rea; F. Mansell (captain), S. Smart, A. Rea, J. Harris, J. H. Webb, G. Manns, E. Curtis, and W. Rose.

Lydbrook. – E. Lewis; C. Brazington, E. Jordan, L. Jones, and R. Meek; S. Kear and A. Joiner; A. Skinner (captain), O. Weston, L. Moss, W. Dunn, W. Freeman, J. Morgan, H. Morgan, and I. Morgan.

Referee : Capt. F. Blackwell.

The visitors started, and after some scrambling play in the home half the Gloucester forwards carried the ball well to the Lydbrook 25, where Lewis stopped the rush, going down to the ball well and clearing with a good kick.

Lydbrook pressed, and Daniell fumbling, Jordan essayed an unsuccessful drop kick. The game was taken to the other end, where, following good forward work, Loveridge received from Rea and scored. Williams made a good effort to convert, but failed.

On the restart Webb was prominent with a good dribble, and A. Rea crossed, the goal kick failing.

The Lydbrook men were tryers, and the forwards used their feet to advantage. Harris headed a strong City rush, but Lewis cleared well under the pressure. From a scrum at half-way Lydbrook got the ball, but Daniell intercepted, and beating the opposition for pace, scored under the posts, Williams converting.

The Gloucester forwards showed a pretty passing movement on resuming, and play was again taken to the visitors' 25. The Lydbrook forwards, however, brought relief with a rush, but Crowther sent them back with a good kick.

Play was mainly confined to the forwards, and Williams was prominent for a clever gather and kick when pressed. At the other end Meek stopped a promising movement with a mark, and midfield play ensued. Gloucester were not to be denied, however, and Crowther added the next try, following a mistake by Lewis. The place kick failed.

In the next minute Williams gathered well and cross-kicked to Daniell, who ran round the opposition to score under the posts, Williams adding the goal points.

For the first time Lydbrook got near the home line, but Gloucester worked out thanks to A. Rea and Daniell.

HALF-TIME :
Gloucester A 2 goals, 3 tries
Lydbrook Nil

On the resumption Gloucester quickly gained a footing in the visitors' half, and Webb made an opening and scored, and with a good kick Williams converted.

The Lydbrook third line passed, but Williams stopped them. Crowther went away, but his transfer was intercepted by Jones, and the movement broke down.

From a scrum the ball went cleanly across the Gloucester third line to Loveridge, who made a strong run, eluding two of his opponents. He then had the misfortune to collide with the corner flag, and had to retire. In the next minute Poole served J. Rea well, and Crowther receiving, ran through a number of opponents to add to Gloucester's score. No goal resulted.

Daniell was next prominent with a dribble half the length of the field, but Lewis saved well. The Seconds were nearly over in the next minute. Manns essayed a drop at goal, but missed. Gloucester went away thanks to a reverse pass by Poole, but Daniell was grassed on the visitors' 25. Here a series of scrums took place, and the left wing of the home threes missed opportunities through bad handling.

Eventually Daniell and Crowther were nearly over with pretty inter-passing, but a forward pass brought it to an end. The ball came back to Williams who ran up and dropped a clever goal from the 25 line after manœuvring for position.

On the restart Crowther gathered from the loose and with a strong run added another try. Williams failed with the kick. The players began to throw the ball about in wild fashion which, whilst funny, was hardly football. Smart and Manns did good work, forcing a minor, and the end came.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 4 goals (1d), 5 tries (34 pts.)
Lydbrook Nil.

REMARKS.

As the score indicates, the home team were much too good for Lydbrook, but the play at time was far from scientific. There was too much trusting to chance, and with a smarter opposition Gloucester would have had by no means so easy a victory.

The visitors worked hard and were always plucky. The forwards got the ball back in the scrums, but the weakness of Kear and the worrying tactics of Poole prevented the three-quarters from handling. The two insides, E. Jordan and L. Jones, did useful defensive work, whilst Lewis brought off some good clearances.

The Gloucester forwards excelled in the loose, and Webb, Rea and Manns were ever to the fore. Behind the scrum, Daniell, Crowther and Loveridge showed their pace and ability to advantage, and Daniell's two tries were clever individual efforts. Williams was a tower of strength – he gathered and kicked well, and his drop goal was smartly worked for.