

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1924.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER'S HEAVY DEFEAT.

CARDIFF'S 23 POINTS' MARGIN.

HOME TEAM BY FAR THE BETTER SIDE.

For their return match with Cardiff, at the Arms Park, Gloucester lacked the services of Voyce and Bayliss (forward), but there were no changes from the selected Fifteen. The first game at Kingsholm in October ended in a draw of eight points each, the Welshmen equalising the scores late in the game with an opportunist try by Daph Davies. Cardiff had a strong back division doing duty, and on recent form fully expected to improve on their performance at Gloucester.

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : R. James.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. Brown, T. Millington (capt.), F. Meadows, and N. Daniell.

HALF-BACKS : W. Collins and E. Hughes.

FORWARDS : A. Hall, F. Ayliffe, H. Collier, J. Merry, T. Coulson, A. Rea, P. Carter, and E. Triggs-Herbert.

CARDIFF.

BACK : B. O. Male.

THREE-QUARTERS : J. Powell, Daph Davies, R. Cornish, and T. Johnson.

HALF-BACKS : W. Delahay and D. E. Davies.

FORWARDS : Idris Richards (capt.), W. J. Ould, W. Cornish, D. G. Davies, W. Iveson, A. R. Rickard, D. L. Jones, and F. Stephens.

Referee : Mr. E. Roberts (Llanelly).

THE GAME.

After heavy rain in the morning the weather turned fine, and the attendance reached about 8,000. Cardiff started, and there was a series of exchange kicks.

Male later received from a mark kick by Brown and running round, passed to Daph Davies. The latter cut through beautifully, but gave a bad transfer with the defence practically beaten.

From a line-out the Cardiff backs were given possession, and the ball going smartly across to JOHNSON, the International dashed down touch and scored wide out within three minutes of the start. Johnson failed at goal.

This early reverse put the City on their mettle, and a good run by a forward carried them well down. The ball was eventually sent over the line for a minor.

Gloucester did well on the drop-out, and Millington made a fine shot at goal from a penalty. Male then came out from over his goal-line and started passing, but it was muddled and the City had a splendid chance of scoring. Cardiff, however, cleared luckily to beyond the 25. The home forwards heeled twice, but Cornish passed badly, and the City took advantage.

Good work by the visiting forwards, in which Collier was prominent, led to a sharp attack, but Cardiff came back strongly, D. G. Davies bringing off a capital run. This effort was followed by a shot at goal from a penalty, and later one from a mark, but both failed.

Inside the Gloucester quarter Delahay whipped out a sharp pass to Cornish, who cut through nicely, but delayed his pass, which was captured by Brown. The latter raced back, but was pulled down from behind.

The Gloucester forwards made headway with some close dribbling, and Johnson was hard pressed. He attempted to clear, but slipped, and, his pass going astray, Gloucester went very near. The City were awarded a penalty at the ensuing scrum, but Millington's kick was very wide.

Gloucester, however, continued to attack, and clever work between Collins and Hughes saw the latter go over, but, unfortunately, he lost the ball – very hard lines. The visitors lost their position soon after, Daph Davies intercepting and punting to the centre.

Ensuing play was keen and fast, the Gloucester forwards doing splendidly in the loose. A fine touch-finder by Millington put the City very close, and the Cardiff line had a very narrow escape.

Having obtained a good attacking position, the Gloucester halves opened out. Millington burst through, but was tackled from behind. He essayed a pass, which went wide of a colleague, and Daph Davies dribbled right away, first kicking past James. Carter got back and tried hard to save, but he was fouled, and the ball being taken over the line RICKARD touched down for a try. Male converted, and Cardiff had a lead of eight points.

Play on the re-start was very open, Cardiff handling well. Backs and forwards shared in one movement, but with practically a clear opening a forward transfer was given. Gloucester replied with some dashing footwork, Hall, Rea and Coulson doing finely, but Male saved under the posts.

Cardiff eased the pressure with useful kicks, but wild passing nearly let Gloucester in a little later. The City continued to have the better of the exchanges, and, following more clever work by the forwards, BROWN dashed over in the corner. Millington failed.

HALF-TIME :

CARDIFF 1 goal, 1 try

GLOUCESTER 1 try

Gloucester deserved a reward for their persistent efforts just before the interval, especially as the visitors had experienced very hard lines on several occasions. The City forwards had performed excellently in the loose, but nearly all the back play had been put in by Cardiff.

Drizzling rain had commenced to fall, and the ground was churned up badly in places, which handicapped the players.

Gloucester resumed strongly, the forwards breaking away and tackling deadily. Two penalties to Cardiff, however, enabled the Welshmen to gain an advantage territorially.

Loose footwork further improve the position, and Gloucester cleared luckily with a flying kick. Cardiff worked back, and from some loose play there was a series of exchanges, ending in W. CORNISH running over with a good try, Hughes' tackle being just too late. Male landed a nice goal.

Gloucester had a bad few minutes on the restart, the Cardiff forwards rushing well. In one burst they beat the defence, James allowing the ball to go between his legs and over the line. OULD followed up fast, and just gained the touch for a try, which Male again converted.

Cardiff were soon on the attack again, and a great try followed from DAPH DAVIES. Receiving from Delahay, the outside half went clean through with a swerve and a dodge and beating James, easily crossed with a try which Male had no difficulty in converting.

This was the third score in about ten minutes and the crowd roared their enthusiasm again and again. The Gloucester defence certainly had been made to look very cheap.

Soon after the restart the Cardiff forwards were off with an irresistible rush, in attempting to check which Ayliffe was knocked out, and had to leave the field.

Resuming, the Cardiff backs were soon sent away by Delahay, and a nice opening was made for Johnson. The right wing jumped over James, who had gone for a low tackle, but he lost the ball on the line.

Gloucester, short of Ayliffe, resumed pluckily, the forwards using their feet well, but Cardiff's cleverness behind staved off disaster, and the Welshmen in turn took up the attack. Johnson was well stopped by Brown once, but the Cardiffians generally took a lot of looking after.

For the next few minutes the home team had all the play, and Gloucester had an anxious time. Twice Cardiff kicked too hard, and the ball went dead. Brown earned loud applause for a fine run from near his own line to beyond half-way; but Gloucester now gave away another try.

From a line out, W. Cornish gathered and ran to James, when he passed to POWELL, who finished a long run with a score near the posts. Male missed the goal points, but Cardiff's tally was now 26 to three.

Gloucester had been for the most part outplayed in this half, and the defence was often sadly at fault. From close to the Gloucester line Hughes brought off a clever run and pass to Brown, who sprinted hard, but Cornish got across and bored him to touch just beyond the centre.

The City did better after this, Cardiff slackening somewhat. It was too late to escape a heavy defeat. Carter, Rea, and Collier shone in a loose dribble, but R. Cornish ran brilliantly, shaking off James. Finally, however, the opening was lost.

RESULT :

CARDIFF 4 goals 2 tries (26 pts.)

GLOUCESTER 1 try (3 pts.)

REMARKS.

Gloucester were beaten to-day by a side far too clever for them. Behind the scrum the City did fairly well in the first half, but it was the forwards who distinguished themselves.

Then followed a very bad period after the change of ends, and for a quarter of an hour or so the side seemed demoralised. During this time Cardiff scored three tries, and with Male adding goal points the City were placed seriously in arrears.

Praise is due to the forwards for their splendid work. Carter, Hall, Collier and Coulson being repeatedly in evidence, but the back play was disappointing. There was little or no combination, the passing attempted being too slow and methodical. Hughes and Brown accomplished good work individually, but as an attacking force the visitors were no match for their rivals. James's defence was faulty and Male on the whole was much sounder at full back.

Cardiff took many risks and with conditions none too favourable, mistakes were numerous, but on the day's play they were far the better side.

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A.

CARDIFFIANS TOO GOOD FOR THE HOME RESERVES.

This afternoon, at Kingsholm, Gloucester A had an opportunity of getting level with Cardiff A for their defeat at Cardiff earlier in the season. The Welshmen were then victorious by 8 points to 3. There was a good attendance. The ground was wet from the morning rain, but it was fine for the kick-off.

Teams : –

Gloucester A. – S. Williams; R. N. Loveridge, R. B. Miller, S. R. Crowther and E. C. Fisher; G. Poole and P. G. Hogg; F. Mansell (capt.), S. Smart, J. H. Webb, F. Ford, W. Rose, J. Armstrong, G. Manns, and E. Comley.

Cardiff A. – A. Lloyd; P. Rayer, W. Rayer, A. Hobbs, and D. Thomas; Alf. Davies and R. Cornish; G. Cornish, A. Jones, C. Hughes, M. Regan, J. Brown, J. Westbury, T. Arnott, and R. North.

Referee : Mr. G . L. Jones (Lydney).

Mansell kicked off, but there was a good return to touch, and from the line-out the visiting threes were put into possession, Hobbs running well and punting down the field. There was an ugly rush, which was stopped just inside the Gloucester 25. From a scrum in this position Davis made an attempt to drop a goal, but the ball was deflected. The home forwards brought relief with a smart loose dash.

Mansell dribbled to the Welshmen's quarter, where the visitors were penalised, and Williams made a fine but unsuccessful effort to goal. On the restart Davies picked up, and put in a smart dash down the touch line. He gave the "dummy," and reached the home 25, but his pass was knocked on.

Again the Gloucester forwards worked down, but the Cardiff defence was good, and the home attacks were weak. Twice the visiting three-quarters handled, and Gloucester were hard put to it to keep them out. Loveridge with a flying kick to touch stopped a dangerous dribble by Thomas, and then the home Reserves attacked and carried play into the Cardiff territory.

Cardiff, who were very smart in gathering in the open, attacked strongly, Davies putting in some splendid work, but the home backs were defending staunchly.

Snapping the ball up smartly, Fisher started a round of passing in which all the home threes participated, but Crowther knocked on after gaining a good slice of ground. A further attack by the Gloucester backs carried the home Seconds on the Cardiff quarter, and Crowther and Fisher made a dash for the line, which was frustrated.

Gloucester a minute later opened their account. Miller passed to Loveridge, who ran well and punted across the field. Smart ran up, and snapping up the ball raced for the line and touched down for a try, which Williams failed to convert.

Gloucester continued to attack for a time, but Cardiff worked to mid-field, and then rushed to the home 25, where Crowther was fouled and Cardiff penalised. Later Cornish, the outside half, made a futile drop for goal. Ford now came into the picture with a couple of fine bursts, which helped to get Gloucester out of difficulties.

Cardiff equalised just on half-time, G. Cornish going over with a try after a bout of passing, Arnott failing with the goal kick from an easy position.

HALF-TIME :

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| Gloucester A | 1 try |
| Cardiff A | 1 try |

The first half had been fairly even, but Cardiff had made more chances, but had failed to take advantage of them. On the resumption, after Williams had put in a very useful kick to touch, Cardiff burst through to the home line, where twice scores were only prevented by the most desperate work in defence. A fierce struggle took place on the Gloucester line, and after several attempts Davies received from the forwards and cut through with a try, which went unconverted.

Gloucester were now being over borne in the forward line, and there was also a decided weakness at centre, where Poole and Hogg failed to combine.

Gloucester, following this reverse, attacked again, the forwards rushing to the Cardiff quarter. A spectacular run by Loveridge, who crossed the field, was followed a moment later by a champion solo run by Miller, who cut through a crowd of opponents and scored a try near the posts, which Williams converted.

Encouraged by this success Gloucester A attacked strongly, and kept the visitors confined to their half of the field, but the Cardiffians put up a sterling defence. Once Cardiff broke away, but Williams, who was playing well, sent them back with a lengthy, well-judged kick to touch. Rayer, however, put in a fine run which placed the visitors in an attacking position, and Thomas on the other wing ran to the home 25 before being pushed into touch by Crowther.

Cardiff continued their pressure, and Rayer, their right wing, ran in with a try which was not converted. Gloucester's defence had now weakened, the attempt to stop Rayer being very half-hearted. Cardiff obtained another try, this time through Regan, who received from Rayer, after the right wing had run to Williams.

RESULT :

Cardiff A 4 tries (12 points)
Gloucester A 1 goal 1 try (8 points)

REMARKS.

Cardiff A were too good all round for Gloucester A. The home pack were out-weighted and seldom heeled, and in the loose, although they played keenly, they were hardly a match for the visiting front division. Davies, the Cardiff scrum half, played a very smart game, and with R. Cornish combined much better than did Poole and Hogg, who were rather disappointing. The home three-quarters did very well in attack, and made few mistakes, but they were not given the chances which the Cardiff three-quarters had. The visiting third line, although fast and keen, were ragged and continually spoiled good chances by knocking on and passing forward. P. Rayner was the pick of the Cardiff three-quarters, but Davies was the live wire of the side. Miller's try was a very fine effort, but all the three-quarters did well in attack. In defence they showed a decided weakness. Williams was the outstanding man on the home side.