

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1924.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER DEFEATED AT PONTYPOOL.

WELSHMEN WIN BY EIGHT POINTS.

CITY FORWARDS IN CAPITAL FORM.

Gloucester paid their last visit of the season to Wales to-day, when they engaged Pontypool in the return match. When the teams met at Kingsholm in January both clubs suffered from absentees, and the result of a keenly-contested game was a victory for Gloucester by 1 goal (5 points) to nil.

The City were able to command the services of a fairly good side. Collins, who it was generally thought last week restarted too soon after his injury, is again disabled, and may not be able to play again this season. Poole again deputised, and in the continued absence of Hughes (who was taking a try-out with the Seconds), Meadows again filled the outside position. Forward, Ayliffe was not available, and Carter[sic] returned to the pack. Pontypool, who had always been able to account for their English visitors at home, had Arthur Evans (the International forward) and J. Harris away, but otherwise were at full strength.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : R. James.

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

HALF-BACKS : G. Poole and F. Meadows.

FORWARDS : A. Hall, T. Voyce, S. Bayliss, T. Coulson, H. Collier, F. Ford, J. Merry, and I. Armstrong.

PONTYPOOL.

BACK : C. Ford.

THREE-QUARTERS : Cliff Richards, E. Vaisey, G. Roberts, and H. James.

HALF-BACKS : L. Crane and G. Evans.

FORWARDS : J. Hayward, D. Fidler, H. Williams, S. Joliffe, C. Pritchard, C. Taylor, J. Morgan, and C. Harvey.

Referee : Mr. R. Pollock (Newport).

THE GAME.

Fine weather prevailed, and there were 3,000 spectators. Pontypool kicked off, and James knocking on the home team invaded the Gloucester 25. They were quickly evicted, and Crowther executed a smart run down the wing, but was floored by Ford.

A fine round of passing, in which all the home backs handled, placed Pontypool on the attack. In fine, open play the ball went across to Cliff Richards, who passed forward.

Voyce found touch from a penalty, and James sent play to mid-field with a well-judged kick to touch. Following a burst by the Gloucester forwards, led by Voyce, a visitor broke away, but Ford stopped him. Millington dribbled well down, but Cliff Richards sent the ball to touch.

James now was finding touch beautifully, and kept play in the Pontypool quarter, where the defence was keenly tested. Poole cut through nicely, but was hemmed in.

Some fine footwork by Sid Brown was nullified by a relief kick by Ford. Pontypool handled well, but the Gloucester tackling was keen. Daniell intercepted a pass and dribbled half the length of the field to Ford, who picked up cleanly and, evading Millington, found touch smartly.

Gloucester continued to attack, and Millington made a splendid attempt to drop a goal, the ball going just wide. Again Pontypool handled, and James ran strongly, but the Gloucester full back grassed him with a grand tackle. Again James ran strongly for the Gloucester line, but this time Sid Brown effected a splendid tackle and sent him to touch. Gloucester were having a good share of the ball in the scrums, and Poole and Meadows were combining well.

The visitors then attacked strongly, but met with a staunch defence, James playing a champion game. Pontypool broke away from a line-out and made straight for the line. James partly stopped the rush and Millington relieved. This was a missed opportunity for Pontypool. Off-side by Pool saw Ford find touch in the corner.

Pontypool muddled in a line-out, and Brown securing relieved. A useful shot by Voyce carried play to mid-field, and a promising burst by the City forwards followed. The Gloucester threes handled beautifully, and the ball was sent to Crowther, who burst through, but made the mistake of punting over the head of the full back, and a fine chance was lost.

The referee insistently penalised Gloucester, but the visitors could not clear, and Millington running round sent to touch. Pontypool were penalised, and Millington made an attempt to place a goal, but the wind was too strong and the ball went a yard wide of the posts. This was hard lines for Gloucester, who deserved a score. Pontypool now attacked, and following a missed chance by Cliff Richards, TAYLOR dribbled over and scored a try, which Evans converted with a fine kick.

Daniell, in diving for the ball when Taylor scored, injured his leg, and had to go off. So far Gloucester had played grandly, and on the restart Poole made a mark and placed the City again on the attack. Daniell returned at half-time.

HALF-TIME :
PONTYPOOL 1 goal
GLOUCESTER Nil

Gloucester resumed with a grand forward burst, led by Hall, who just failed to cross. Pontypool relieved and ran to midfield, where Brown held them up with a smart pick-up. He could not get far.

The home forwards rushed to the City quarters, where they heeled from a scrum and looked like scoring, but the defence was good. Gloucester broke away, but Vaisey fielded and ran strongly.

Gloucester had a narrow escape a moment later, Pontypool handling well until James took the ball on the line and dropped it, and it rolled to touch-in-goal.

Then Gloucester handled smartly, and Crowther ran strongly but could not get through. Gloucester continued to attack, but off-side lost them their advantage.

Pontypool secured from a line-out but muddled. They had, however, progressed to midfield. Here a strenuous struggle ensued. At length Pontypool had a chance, Vaisey breaking through, but he passed wide to Pritchard, who missed, and James getting back kicked the ball to touch-in-goal.

The Gloucester forwards were playing finely, their loose work being superior to the home team, but the City backs were not forceful enough to take advantage of the openings.

The Pontypool backs handled frequently, but were ragged and fumbled badly at the critical moment. A smart movement by Poole and Meadows, who punted, was negated by Ford, who fielded and gained a large slice of ground with a kick to touch.

RESULT :

PONTYPOOL 8 Points
GLOUCESTER Nil

GLOUCESTER A v. DRYBROOK.

SECONDS WIN WELL IN SECOND HALF.

Played at Kingsholm, in fine weather. Opening play was in favour of Drybrook, whose forwards were quick on the ball and in the following up, and the backs, taking advantage of a strong wind behind them, kicked with good judgment.

The Gloucester line was more than once in danger of being crossed, but the defence was very sound, and Loveridge, with a very useful run, took play out of the danger zone.

Eventually the Gloucester forwards worked to mid-field, where the three-quarters passed well and Hyam made a capital run, but could not evade Williams, the opposing full back, who made no mistake in bringing the Gloucester man down.

Loveridge was to the fore with a nice run, but his pass did not go to hand. Williams got in a fine kick to touch a few yards from the Drybrook line, but the visitors soon cleared.

More passing by the Gloucester backs gave promise of producing a score, but Pitt knocked-on from the final transfer. Towards the interval Drybrook, after a forward rush, had the home line at their mercy, but a forward pass saved the situation.

HALF-TIME :

Gloucester A Nil

Drybrook Nil

Early in the second half the Gloucester forwards worked into a favourable position, and an excellent passing movement in which Hobbs, James and Loveridge took part afforded the last-named the opportunity he had been waiting for. Putting on top speed, he outpaced Watkins and Edwards and scored a good try, which Williams failed to convert from near the touch line.

A few minutes later Loveridge gently kicked the ball over the heads of the Drybrook three-quarters and it was taken over the line for Rose to score, Williams failing with the place kick.

Gloucester were now having all the play, the forwards occasionally over-running their opponents, and Loveridge making some good runs. It was left to Hyam, however, to beat the defence by getting possession on the blind side of the scrum and going over in the corner, the try being scored too far out for Williams to convert.

Continuing to show marked superiority in every position on the field Hyam and Hughes added tries, one of which Comley converted.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 1 goal 4 tries (17 Pts.)

Drybrook Nil