

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1922.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER'S BAD LUCK AT CARDIFF.

BEATEN BY A PENALTY GOAL.

SID BROWN INJURED.

BRILLIANT TRIES BY STONE AND DANIELL.

For the first visit to Wales this season, Gloucester appeared at Cardiff Arms Park with the encouraging record of four successive victories at the expense of the Harlequins, Plymouth Albion, Bristol, and Guy's Hospital, and with added confidence that with the exception of Meadows (who was kept out of the side owing to an injured shoulder), the selected Fifteen was able to make the journey.

This latter fact was something new for the City team, and the players, whilst fully recognising the strength of Cardiff at home and their own ill-luck when playing on Welsh soil, fancied their chances not a little. Bristol were only narrowly beaten at Cardiff, and on form, especially Gloucester's against Guy's last week, the City were regarded as capable of at least equalling Bristol's performance.

The appearance of Sam Stone in the Gloucester team occasioned a good deal of interest locally, and with a centre wanted for the county in the event of Stanley Cook not being available for the Devon match, members of the Gloucestershire Selection Committee took advantage of the occasion to watch the clever Bream player in his first serious test. Sid Brown was originally moved from centre to wing, for the introduction of Stone, but with Meadows dropping out he reverted to the inside position, and Crowther got his place in the side again.

Cardiff, who were unbeaten, had a strong team out, and the "South Wales News" critic expressed the view this morning that the Welsh Metropolitans "appeared to have an excellent chance of obtaining a substantial win."

GLOUCESTER.

BACK: J. C. Collett.

THREE-QUARTERS: N. Daniell, S. Stone, S. Brown, and S. R. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS: T. Gough and T. Millington.

FORWARDS: F. W. Ayliffe (captain), T. Voyce, Major Roderick, M. Evans, S. Bayliss, A. Hall, S. Smart, and T. Coulson.

CARDIFF.

BACK: Dr. T. Wallace (captain).

THREE-QUARTERS: T. Johnson, J. C. Lewis, R. A. Cornish, and S. Higginson.

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

FORWARDS: I. Richards, D. Llewellyn, J. Prosser, S. Hinan, R. Rickards, H. Upcott, J. Grant, R. Rowland, and W. Cornish.

THE GAME.

The game started before 10,000 spectators. Gloucester opened well but were quickly driven back by fine work by the Cardiff forwards, and when Johnson punted on and followed up, Collett only just managed to get behind in time to kick out of bounds. The Cardiff attacks, not of the best, were subsequently repulsed, and Gloucester in turn were the aggressors. For a time they were held, though Stone narrowly failed with a drop at goal.

The City persisted, and a brilliant opening by Millington, while Smart was temporarily off the field injured, enabled Stone to score a great try after he had cleverly beaten Wallace by a pretty swerve. Millington converted.

The Gloucester forwards did much damage through their alertness and pace in the open, and they also profited from the fact that Cardiff's combined efforts were poorly executed. Collett did some fine kicking on several occasions when the Cardiff forwards broke away, and he also saved with a great tackle of Johnson.

Gloucester lost Brown through injuries and he was escorted off the field by ambulance men.

With Cardiff attacking the passing again went wrong, and Daniell dribbling through, kicked on, fielded, and scored a great try after covering three parts the length of the field. Millington failed.

The Cardiff forwards becoming discontented with the futile efforts of their backs took matters into their own hands, and Dean scored a try in a scramble.

Cardiff pressed subsequently until the interval, but over-eagerness spoiled their chances, and Wallace and Johnson each failed with shots from penalties.

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

Brown returned after the interval with his head heavily bandaged. Cardiff promptly went to the attack on the resumption, and only desperate tackling kept Johnson and Arthur Cornish out. Brown, in endeavouring to render the maximum amount of service to the defence, got off-side right in the front of the posts, and Dr. Wallace had no difficulty in placing a penalty goal.

Gloucester replied by setting up a spectacular attack, Roderick making a fine opening for Brown, who was beautifully tackled by Wallace, but only just in time. The Gloucester forwards led yet another attack, which Cardiff had to exert themselves to the utmost to deal satisfactorily with.

Wallace had hard luck with an attempt to place another penalty from long range, and in subsequent play the Gloucester centres performed grandly in defence, for the Cardiff backs were receiving plenty of the ball.

Another fine opening my Millington on the short side of the scrum gave Crowther a chance. He rounded Higginson, kicked over Wallace's head and raced for the ball over the line, but was narrowly beaten in the dive for it. Gloucester continued to attack, and Millington came within inches of landing two penalty goals from difficult angles.

Gloucester were penned in their own quarters for some minutes, and Davies, being given possession by his forwards, he darted across with a try under the posts. Wallace goaled, and Cardiff were three points ahead.

Gloucester made a great rally in the concluding minutes, but they were repulsed, and when Cardiff once more attacked Collett made a brilliant save, running over his own line and punting back to touch. Cardiff were pressing when the end came with them as winners.

RESULT :

CARDIFF 2 goals (1p), 1 try (11 pts.)

GLOUCESTER 1 goal, 1 try (8 pts.)

REMARKS.

Our Cardiff correspondent says : –

Few games have been contested with greater spirit and earnestness than this one; and while the combined work never reached a high standard, there was much to admire in the individual alertness and speed shown by both sides.

Gloucester were beaten in the tight, but in the loose they more than held their own. Millington and Stone played brilliantly, and Voyce and Smart were most prominent.

Gloucester certainly far exceeded expectations, and taking everything into account were unlucky to lose. Though the game lacked combined brilliance it was a great spectacle.

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A.

CITY SECONDS' CAPITAL WIN.

One of the most attractive fixtures in the Gloucester A list was played at Kingsholm this afternoon, when Cardiff A provided the opposition. The visitors fielded a representative side, but the home team had four selected players absent – two from the three-quarter line, which was accordingly of a scratch nature.

Teams : –

Gloucester A. – R. James; H. Charles, E. Hughes, Joe Harris, and W. Washbourne; R. Cook and G. Cole; F. Mansell (captain), J. Rea, T. Bridges, J. H. Webb, E. Curtis, T. Taylor, H. C. Kingscott, and P. Carter.

Cardiff A. – S. Joshua; C. H. Bryant, L. Richardson, W. Horwood, and T. Venables; J. Mullins and T. McAuliffe; C. Rees, T. O'Brien, N. Payne, D. G. Davies, J. Davies, A. Dalrymple, R. Williams, and A. K. Jones.

Referee : Mr. J. Baker.

Gloucester A kicked off, Cardiff A having to face a strong sun. The visitors got the better of the initial scrums and forced Gloucester to their 25. A strong punt sent the ball over the Gloucester line, and James found it advisable to concede a minor. After this the home team came away, and getting the ball back from the scrum the threes handled. Hughes made a champion run to within ten yards of the line, where the forwards dribbled over and Harris just beat Joshua for the touch. James made a poor attempt with the goal kick.

Nothing daunted, the Cardiff men set up a strong attack, Bryant and Richardson executing a spectacular passing movement down the left wing. They only had James to beat, but the home back was safe and sent the wing man to touch.

The Welshmen kept up the pressure, and James again touched down. From the drop-out the Gloucester forwards took the game in hand and, led by Mansell, took play to the Cardiff quarter, where Cole, coming up on the outside, continued the movement and notched a second try for Gloucester, James again failing with the place-kick.

On restarting, Gloucester were again called upon to defend, the visitors keeping them confined to their territory for some time. The attacks, however, lacked finish, the Cardiff men kicking to touch instead of going for the line.

At length relief came to the home team chiefly by forward rushes. In one of these they carried the ball over the line, but the linesman had his flag up. The Welshmen had now fallen off considerably, and had difficulty in keeping their line intact. Richardson, however, eased the pressure with a run and punt to touch, and Venables still further improved the position with a clever run.

Time after time the visiting forwards heeled, but the back division made poor use of their chances thus provided, and seldom made headway. Cardiff worked further down the field and an attempt was made to drop a goal, but the shot was wide.

At last the Cardiff backs got properly on the move, and this time were successful, Bryant scoring wide out. Mullins failed to convert.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A 2 tries
Cardiff A 1 try

Play was even on the resumption for a time, and then Cardiff got the ball back and their threes handled, but Washbourne intercepted and kicked down the field. Gloucester were unable to keep the ground thus gained. They set up another attack, however, and in an attempt to clear one of the visitors punted to his back, who, however, lost the ball on the rebound. Cole ran up and snapping the ball went over with an easy try, which James converted.

The home team took things easy after this and gave ground. The Cardiff forwards taking full advantage of their opportunity rushed to the Gloucester line, where McAuliffe picked up and forced himself over with a try, which went unconverted.

They were unable to keep up the pressure, and play was again transferred to their quarter, and they had to defend desperately. Gloucester kept pegging away, and Webb was conspicuous with a tricky bit of play which kept his side well up.

A handling movement by Cardiff should have enabled them to clear, but Richardson fumbled and the Gloucester forwards took control. Then the home back came to grief, receiving a nasty jar in a collision and having to be carried off the field. Jack Webb went back, and was quickly called upon to defend. From a scrum Bryant went over in the corner, but he had stepped into touch and was recalled.

The home team soon cleared, and a period of play at midfield ensued. Then from a penalty kick the ball went to Bryant, who ran at full speed round behind the posts thinking to carry on, but he thought better of it and touched down much to the amusement of the crowd.

After Cardiff had worked to half way Joe Harris cut through brilliantly and attended by Washbourne only had Joshua to beat, but the pass was fumbled and a certain try lost.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 1 goal 2 tries (11 pts.)

Cardiff A 2 tries (6 pts.)

REMARKS.

Gloucester A did well to win with a back division so disorganised. Their superiority was chiefly due to the excellent loose play of the forwards, who, although often out-manœuvred in the scrums, more than made up for this deficiency when they got the ball at their feet.

Mansell, Webb, Kingscott and Carter were outstanding, but all were good. Cook and Cole were superior to Mullins and McAuliffe at halfback, Cole being particularly keen. Little can be said of the home three-quarters as a combination, but individually Hughes played well, that ankle tackle of his being employed to great advantage in defence.

Joe Harris played a bustling game, but the wings had little chance. James was moderate. The Cardiff forwards were useful, particularly in the scrums, and their wing three-quarters looked as though they would have done better had the centres not fumbled so badly. Joshua was quite good, and had little chance of preventing the tries registered against his side.

J.H.H.

JC