

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1923.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. LONDON WELSH.

CITY WINNERS BY THREE POINTS.

A DISAPPOINTING DISPLAY.

For their holiday match with London Welsh, Gloucester made three changes in the side which defeated Abertillery on Saturday, C. A. Watkins (late Stroud), P. Carter, and A. Rea taking the places of Stone, Collier and Holford. London Welsh, who had suffered two bad defeats on tour against Maesteg and Cross Keys respectively, made several alterations, the most notable absentee being Melbourne Thomas, the St. Bart's Hospital and Welsh International centre. The weather was beautifully fine, but the attendance was rather disappointing.

Teams :

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : R. James.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. A. Brown, T. Millington, C. A. Watkins, and N. Daniell.

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

FORWARDS : F. Ayliffe, A. Rea, A. Hall, S. Smart, S. Bayliss, T. Coulson, P. Carter, and M. Evans.

LONDON WELSH.

BACK : E. Davies.

THREE-QUARTERS : I. Jones, L. J. Evans, F. Thomas, and T. Davies.

HALF-BACKS : J. D. Evans and Glyn Williams.

FORWARDS : W. L. Michael, D. W. Thomas, F. Richards, A. Marks, G. Poppe, R. Phillips, W. L. Jones, and I. J. Baxter.

Referee : Mr. J. Southby (Bristol).

THE GAME.

London Welsh started against the sun, and from the first scrum Gloucester heeled. Collins, however, sent out a pass over Hughes' head, and Watkins slipped in trying to pick up. The result was a visitor dribbled through, but the City managed to save. Immediately after the Welsh spoiled a promising movement by fumbling, and centre play followed.

A loose rush by the home forwards carried them into the visitors 25, where J. Evans broke away and punted to touch. Gloucester worked back, but I. Jones intercepting a pass from Watkins to Daniell he raced down touch and beat James. He was collared from behind, but let the ball go, and the visitors indulged in a series of clever exchanges which nearly brought about a score.

Bayliss hereabouts had to retire to have a cut head bandaged, and the City resumed with seven forwards. London Welsh got very close again, and Watkins failing to take from Hughes the situation was not improved. Eventually the home halves got the ball away again, and this time a combined effort resulted in Brown finding touch at the centre. A big kick sent the ball past James, who had to get back to gather. He did this successfully, and found touch at the quarter flag.

Heeling by the City forwards saw the backs take part in a lovely movement, which ended in Daniell running down the line and cross-kicking. There was every chance of a score, but it was missed, and a little later the City again threw away a glorious opportunity through failing to field almost on the line.

Gloucester attacked resolutely, and Collins, slipping away, fed Brown, who threw inside, but the transfer was ruled forward. For an infringement the Welsh were penalised, and Millington made a fine attempt to land a goal, the ball hitting the upright and bouncing over the line. A visitor picked up and ran out, finally passing to I. Jones, who made a short distance before being upset.

Subsequent play was scrappy, Gloucester's form being very moderate. A penalty kick, well taken, placed the Welsh inside the Gloucester quarter, where the visitors, playing with great dash, severely pressed. A loose scrum carried the Welsh right up to the line, where from a scramble Williams picked up and sent to I. Jones, who scored in the corner. The place kick failed.

Ayliffe resumed, and Gloucester, thanks to a fine touch-finder by James, set up a warm attack. Millington made a drop for goal, but the ball was charged down, and though it rebounded favourably to Daniell, the latter knocked on in trying to gather. The Welsh relieved with a punt, and play was contested in the visitors' half. The City, however, were shaping poorly all round, and the liveliness of the visitors appeared to put the home men all awry. Mistakes came with monotonous regularity, and suggested that if there was no improvement the game would be thrown away.

Play continued very scrambling until Collins and Hughes opened out. Watkins passed wildly, but Collins recovered, and sending out a long pass to Brown, the wing accepted and ran over with a good try. Millington failed to add the extra points.

Resuming, the Welsh had a penalty, but Michael's kick went wide. Hall received and ran and started a passing bout, but it broke down.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
GLOUCESTER 1 try
WELSH 1 try

Gloucester had played most disappointing football in the first half, and did not deserve to be level. Ayliffe re-started, and early on a mistake in fielding by James gave the visitors a footing well inside the home half, The Welsh were not afraid to give the ball air, and the backs showed nippiness in their movements and good kicking abilities, which enabled them to hold the upper hand. Clever play by Brown gave Gloucester a position at the centre, where the forwards broke away nicely, but they over-ran the ball.

Hughes got away on the short side of the scrum, but he held on and was collared. Play went to the left, where Carter brought off a sharp dash. Millington next secured and threw inside to his forwards, but the transfer was ruled forward.

Gloucester showed no improvement in general play, and few of the players could seem to do the right thing. Once Millington dribbled cleverly to near the line, and subsequently the ball was taken over, but only a touch-down resulted.

On the drop out Gloucester held a territorial advantage, but they failed badly at all the finer points of the game, and the display generally was very mediocre. Millington had a long shot from a penalty, but could not get the right direction. After this the Welsh rushed to the City half, where Collins and Hughes started the backs going. Brown missed from Millington but the latter picked up and fed Hughes, who had come outside. Touch, however, was given. The Gloucester forwards, taking matters into their own hands, made a spirited dash for a try, but the attack was beaten off. From a scrum on the 25 Collins picked up, and working the blind side cleverly beat the defence and scored wide out. The goal kick failed.

Gloucester did better on resuming, and following a strong breakaway from a line out, Coulson received and burst over with a try, finally running round behind the posts. Millington kicked a goal, and Gloucester led by eight points.

The game favoured the City on the restart, and one round of passing promised well, but Daniell was penned in, and was pushed to touch. Ayliffe retired injured, and in the closing stages the Welsh attacked hotly. Just on the finish Richards forced himself over in the corner and E. Davies converted with a fine kick.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal 2 tries (11 pts.)

LONDON WELSH 1 goal 1 try (8 pts.)

REMARKS.

London Welsh, with a greatly strengthened team from that defeated by Cross Keys on Saturday, gave the City many anxious moments, and on the play the visitors were unlucky to be beaten. Gloucester were a very disappointing side all round; the forwards were frequently beaten, and the backs by their numerous mistakes in handling were a constant source of weakness. Collins was one of the most successful players on the home side.

ST. MARK'S STILL INVINCIBLE.

SPLENDID VICTORY OVER GLOUCESTER A.

St. Mark's, with the splendid record of 22 matches played and all won, engaged in their biggest test of the season on Easter Monday morning, when they opposed Gloucester A at Longford. The City Seconds had a strong back division – Gibbs, Crowther, Clements, and Loveridge being at three-quarter – but a couple of regular forwards were absent. The match aroused keen local interest, and there was a large attendance of spectators.

St. Mark's retained their unbeaten record, and won well by 9 points to nil. The ground was heavy, and the game was mostly confined to the forwards. Here the Saints, with their all-round dash and determination, held a distinct advantage, and the backs admirably supported with sound tackling and clever kicking. Ashmead opened the scoring with a try following a charged-down kick of Rea's, but the place kick failed. This was the only score at the interval.

In the second half St. Mark's pressed repeatedly, and the Seconds' line was frequently in danger. Corbett crossed after some neat exchanges, and later G. Manns barged over from a scrum close in, but neither try was converted.

Gloucester made a few spasmodic bursts, but the backs were never allowed to get in motion, and the locals maintained their superiority to the finish.

St. Mark's (writes "W.B.") thoroughly deserved their triumph for which the whole side can take credit. There was no outstanding player; victory was gained by whole-hearted team work, and every man played all out from start to finish. The Invincibles are to be heartily congratulated on their successful season, and the players will no doubt accord their captain ("Lal" Mumford) full credit for the manner in which he has led the side. The old City forward's experience, generalship, and enthusiasm have proved invaluable.

RESULT :

St. Mark's 3 tries (9 points)

Gloucester A Nil

GLOUCESTER A v. OLD BOYS.

Gloucester A defeated the Old Boys, at Hempsted, on Saturday, by 33 pts. to nil. The Old Boys had a difficulty in raising a team, and had to play eight reserves.