

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1923.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER'S MISSED CHANCES.

CITY BEATEN AT SWANSEA BY THIRTEEN POINTS.

VISITING FORWARDS DO WELL.

COLLETT'S GREAT TACKLING.

As usual for the long journey to Swansea, several City players could not make the trip for business reasons, and Sid Brown (indisposed) also had to cry off yesterday. The other absentees were Voyce, Hughes, Smart, and Evans. The vacancies at three-quarter were filled by F. Meadows and F. Webb (last year's captain, now resident at Carmarthen). Swansea had only won one match (against Bristol) since December 26th, but with the strong side out to-day the Welshmen, who proved victorious at Kingsholm in the first fixture by two tries to nil, were fully expected to repeat that triumph at St. Helen's.

Teams : —

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : J. C. Collett.

THREE-QUARTERS : F. Webb, S. Stone, F. Meadows, and N. Daniell.

HALF-BACKS : W. Collins and T. Millington.

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe (capt.), G. Holford, A. Hall, S. Bayliss, T. Coulson, J. Harris, P. Carter, and A. Rea.

SWANSEA.

BACK : Joe Rees.

THREE-QUARTERS : F. C. Palmer, Ivor Ellis, A. Williams, and Rowe Harding.

HALF-BACKS : E. Williams and Sid Davies.

FORWARDS : T. Parker, R. S. Palmer, G. Michael, J. H. John, H. Thomas, D. Hunt, A. Parker, and another.

Referee : Mr. T. W. Millar (Mountain Ash).

THE GAME.

There were 5,000 spectators. Immediately after the opening Swansea pressed, Ellis missing a good chance on the left. Millington stopped a rush and kicked to the centre. Gloucester were penalised near their own 25, Rees just failing by inches to land a goal.

Clever dribbling by Holford and Ayliffe carried play to the opposite end, where Millington from a penalty almost placed a goal. The visitors were playing well in front, Swansea having their work cut out to prevent a score.

Smart handling by the Gloucester backs should have produced a score, but the final transfer was not accepted by Daniell. Swansea retaliated. A clever burst by Williams beat the defence, but a forward pass spoiled the movement.

Gloucester broke away from a line-out, but Stone failed to accept a transfer. Swansea took advantage of the breakdown and placed Collett in difficulties, which he overcame by cleverly finding touch.

Again Swansea had a chance of scoring, but Eddie Williams, after breaking through brilliantly, gave an awkward pass, allowing Daniell to relieve to mid-field.

Gloucester afterwards took a turn in attack, Daniell and Stone taking full advantage of the wind and kicking to touch near the Swansea line. Gloucester did not maintain the advantage long, as Eddie Williams broke through, but again gave a bad pass to Palmer. Swansea had gained a favourable position, and Davies beating the visiting backs gave to Bert Palmer, who scored a try which was converted by Ellis.

The Gloucester forwards followed up the re-start, and Ellis was grassed in his own 25. Webb allowed Davies to go away on his own until Collett saved the situation by a grand tackle. Millington made a splendid mark under difficult conditions, sending play to the centre.

The game remained for a considerable time in the centre, neither side being able to gain much advantage. Good handling by the Gloucester backs looked like bringing about a score until Rees tackled Webb, and, robbing him of the ball, found touch at midway.

From here Swansea went away with a rush. Gloucester were penalised, Rees' shot for goal falling short. Millington misfielded, and the Swansea forwards rushed over the line for Alf Parker to score, Ellis again converting.

Gloucester, by no means disheartened, handled well, but Stone elected to kick instead of giving a chance to Webb, who was in a good position. Just before the interval Gloucester pressed strongly, the forwards dribbling with fine effect, but found Rees unbeatable.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
SWANSEA 2 goals
GLOUCESTER Nil

Gloucester had not taken sufficient advantage of the wind in the first portion of the game, but on changing ends the forwards used their feet effectively, keeping Swansea in their own quarters for some time.

Collett fielded magnificently and found touch with fine kicks. Daniell had a grand chance of scoring after fine handling, but hesitated and was grassed by Rees five yards from the line.

Swansea's attacks were spasmodic, openings being spoilt by infringements. Gradually the homesters worked out of danger, and a combined movement amongst the backs terminated in Ellis scoring behind the posts, the same player failing to add the extra points.

Daniell was repeatedly applauded for smart fielding, but his kicking lacked length. Again the Gloucester forwards used their feet well, forcing Rees to fly-kick to touch to save his line.

Swansea were penalised, but Collett from a fairly easy position failed to land a goal. Play was taken to the opposite end, where Harding pressed Collett so keenly that the Gloucester custodian was forced to find touch within a yard of his own line.

Millington, Webb, Stone, and Collett tackled with determination, beating off repeated attacks by the homesters. The visitors, however, relied mostly upon their forwards, who once in a rush took some stopping. Ayliffe led them in several strong attacks but the backs did not give efficient support. The heavy ground began to tell on the visiting forwards, but they stuck gallantly to their task. Swansea made a further effort to increase their lead, Rees, Harding, Williams, and Palmer gaining a large slice of ground, only to be driven back to the centre by a fine kick by Collett.

Swansea had gained the upper hand territorially, but their aggressive movements lacked the necessary sting to drive home a score. A splendid run by Frank Palmer looked like producing a try until Collett brought off a great tackle, throwing Palmer to touch. Gloucester at this stage were beaten in front, consequently the Swansea backs were frequently in possession, but without scoring.

The visitors had for twenty minutes been confined to their own territory, and their line had several narrow escapes. Harding beat Collett, only to find Stone grass him a yard from the line. Play quickly went to the opposite side of the field but Palmer found Collett unbeatable.

Swansea were busily attacking when Meadows intercepted a pass intended for Ellis and made for the Swansea line. He was not fast enough to get to the line, being grassed by Rees. The home forwards replied with a rush, regaining their position in the Gloucester quarters. The visitors were by no means beaten, the forwards making a rush down the field to the home line. Millington tried to get through on his own, but was pulled up by Joe Rees.

RESULT :

SWANSEA ... 2 goals 1 try (13 points)
GLOUCESTER Nil

REMARKS.

Our Swansea correspondent telegraphs : —

Gloucester opened well, but did not take sufficient advantage of the wind. The forwards performed splendidly, but were better in the open than the tight scrums. The most conspicuous player on the side was Collett, who fielded and kicked brilliantly. Webb and Daniell were the pick of the backs, who were not nearly so effective as the home quartette. Millington was good in defence, but not thrustful enough in attack.

GLOUCESTER A v. BRISTOL A.

CITY RESERVES' CAPITAL WIN.

There was quite a good crowd at Kingsholm to witness the match between Gloucester A and Bristol A. The home team had the assistance of Hughes, Gough and Evans. The ground was in a very heavy condition.

Teams : —

Gloucester A : — R. James; E. H. Hughes, S. Crowther, W. Clements, and R. N. Loveridge; T. Gough and J. Rea; F. Mansell (captain), H. Collier, M. Evans, T. Taylor, A. Rose, A. Wright, W. Harding, and S. Smart.

Bristol A : — F. Sage; H. E. Thuell, G. P. Bethell, J. Jelley, and L. T. Tucker; W. J. Wring and G. R. Osborne; J. K. L. Crawford, E. Sullivan, F. T. Willis, J. Portman (Fry's), J. Brooks (Fry's), A. J. Bradford, G. H. Hodges, and E. Wyatt.

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis.

The visitors started the game and there was a good return, and the home forwards then made a good rush. They were checked, and from a line-out at mid-field the Bristol forwards ran down and were only partially checked by James. Bethell gathered in the loose, and after dodging a couple of opponents dropped a lovely goal. Four points down within as many minutes.

On the restart the home team came away with a rush, and Loveridge put in a good kick to touch in the face of opposition. A nice passing movement left the ball with Loveridge, who ran well and then passed inside, but Hughes was not quite up.

Mansell was at fault in another attack, knocking on with an open goal-line. A penalty against Bristol gave James a chance for a goal, but he missed narrowly. Bristol were now defending hotly, and there were several dashes for the line. Eventually the visitors, with hustling forward play, worked to half-way, but they were again penalised for a scrum infringement. Evans cut through beautifully, but Loveridge, who received, had too many round him to do any good. The home backs were playing quite a good game, and from an excellent passing movement Hughes cut through beautifully and scored a try, which James easily converted.

Gloucester were quickly on the attack again, and Bristol, with a man short, injured, were somewhat unsteady in their defence, and after a sharp dash by Loveridge, who relinquished to Gough, the scrum half scored Gloucester's second try. James was unsuccessful with the kick.

The home team was dominating the game apparently; but they were surprised by the Bristol backs, who gathered in the loose and with inter-passing reached the home line, where Bethell, evading Loveridge, who had got back, scored an unconverted try.

The Gloucester Reserves again advanced to the attack, and after the three-quarters had handled nicely Crowther punted ahead. He was obstructed by Tucker, and the referee awarded a free-kick, James landing a good goal.

Collier, who had been playing an outstanding game again shone in a neat dribble with Taylor, but Sage was safe and ran the ball out. An obvious foul in a line-out saw James attempt to kick a goal, but the bar was not covered. A useful run down the wing by Tucker put Bristol in an attacking position, but they were quickly driven back.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A 2 goals (1p), 1 try
Bristol A 1 goal (d), 1 try

A four-point margin was not too good, but Gloucester had attacked almost continuously during the first half, Bristol being fortunate to score from each of their sallies into the home territory.

On the resumption Bristol resorted to bustling forward play, which gave place to a fine rush by Tucker and Jelley, but the ball was passed inside to one of the forwards, who failed to take advantage of an open line and lost an unrivalled chance.

Then Gloucester took charge, and Hughes headed a rush to the Bristol quarter, and the forwards carried and struggled fiercely on the line, but the defence held. A quick change of venue was effected by Bethell, who ran down with the ball at his feet. Evans got after him, but had he not over-run the ball he must have scored.

There was plenty of excitement hereabouts, for the game fluctuated from one end of the field to the other, first the visitors having to defend and then Gloucester being hard pressed. Sage was proving his worth at back for the visitors, and time and again effected good saves.

Bristol had been defending for some time when they were penalised in front of goal, but James missed an easy chance with a poor kick. Gloucester continued to press strongly, and there were openings of which they failed to take advantage. There was some smart individual play, and the home forwards were doing quite well, but there was lacking scoring ability.[sic]

A period of play on the Bristol line yielded no score, and Bristol worked out with good footwork. Failure to heel cleanly from the scrums had made play scrappy in the later stages, there being a dearth of handling movements but plenty of fumbling, neither side looking like scoring.

James put in a couple of good touch-finders, and then Loveridge scored a most exciting try. He broke through nicely when in his own 25, but was brought down by a heel tackle by Gage. He recovered his feet and the ball, evaded a couple of opponents, and scored after running from mid-field. James failed from a difficult angle.

Bristol attacked strongly at the end, but could not score.

RESULT :

Glo'ster A 2 goals (1p) 2 tries (14 pts.)
Bristol A 1 dropped goal 1 try (7 pts.)

REMARKS.

The game was by no means devoid of interest, and at times there were exciting incidents, but on the whole neither side played impressive football. Gloucester A were generally beaten in the scrum, being out-weighted, but Bristol were unable to take effective advantage of their weight and rarely opened up. When they did it became obvious that they had a good wing in Bethell and Thuell.

The Gloucester forwards made up for their deficiency in scrum work by bustling tactics in the loose, Collier, Smart and Evans doing particularly well.

At half-back Gough and Rea played moderately, Rea being better in defence than in opening up.

In the three-quarter line Loveridge made a most promising debut at Kingsholm. He ran strongly and used his head to advantage every time. In the second half he had few chances, but his try was the result of dashing and clever play.

Hughes was well up to form and did a lot of useful work, but the other wing was not conspicuous, Crowther being left out badly. James played an effective game and Sage also proved a resourceful full back.

JC