

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1923.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER BEATEN AT PONTYPOOL.

WELSHMEN SCORE FIVE POINTS IN EACH HALF.

SPLENDID DISPLAY BY COLLETT.

Gloucester visited Pontypool to-day for the first of the two fixtures between the clubs. The City had a good side out, though Voyce and Roderick were missing from the forwards. The former rested in view of next Saturday's International, and Roderick is staying at Birkenhead. He hopes, however, to be able to play in the next two matches – Neath and Guy's Hospital. Gloucester were prepared to make an early journey to Pontypool, but the home club arranged the kick-off for 3.15, and the team did not travel till the 1 o'clock train, due at Pontypool at 3.5. To date Pontypool had won 16 games, lost one and drawn five, and during the season they had taken six ground records, viz., Redruth, Bridgend, Blaenavon, Aberavon, Abertillery, and Bristol.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : J. C. Collett.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. A. Brown, A. M. David, S. Stone, and E. Hughes.

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

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe (captain), G. Holford, S. Smart, A. Hall, T. Coulson, A. Rea, H. W. Collier, and S. Bayliss.

PONTYPOOL.

BACK : B. O. Male.

THREE-QUARTERS : C. Richards (captain), P. J. Skym, G. Morgan, and H. James.

HALF-BACKS : C. Jerman and E. R. Uren.

FORWARDS : C. Oram, G. Veater, W. Martin, W. Sparkes, Buller Evans, E. Oliver, C. O'Leary, and H. Williams.

## THE GAME.

It was nearly 3.45 when the teams took the field, Gloucester being late arriving. Ayliffe kicked off for Gloucester, and the ball went to Male, whose return gave Gloucester a footing in the Pontypool half. Gloucester heeled at the first scrum but Gough failed to get the ball away, and Millington turned it to touch inside his own half.

Then Skym intercepted a poor pass by Millington and punted on. Collett failed to catch the ball and Oram had hard lines in not crossing. Millington, however, relieved with nice touch finders, but the Gloucester defence continued to be tested, Pontypool working the short line to advantage.

Gloucester had the best of the scrimmages, but again there was a lack of understanding at half-back. As a result of this the Pontypool forwards got well going, but though Collett missed the ball he recovered in time to pick up and make a wonderful burst, which carried play half the length of the field.

Pontypool soon had a chance to handle, and George Morgan made a great burst before he cross-kicked for Richards, who failed to pick up. David came dashing up and cut well across the field, but though he won the applause of the crowd by beating half a dozen men he gained no ground by the effort.

Twice Gloucester lost large slices of ground on account of off-side tactics, and Male turned these to account by splendid touch-finding. Pontypool did the greater part of the attacking, and once when the forwards were getting away in great style Collett caught a great mark and found touch splendidly.

A dribble by George Morgan and a cross-kick by Leary[sic] carried play to within a yard of the Gloucester line, but though Millington gained temporary relief by means of a kick to touch Pontypool continued to attack.

Several scrimmages were formed right on the Gloucester line, but eventually Pontypool were penalised, and Collett found touch splendidly.

Pontypool continued to hold territorial advantage, and when Jerman tried a long pass a Gloucester forward was off-side, and the movement was spoiled. Collett was the saviour of his side, his kicking many times getting them out of difficulties.

Then Millington tried to get in position for a dropped goal, but he did not raise the ball, and the Pontypool forwards carried play to the other end of the field. Leary, who followed up, scored right under the posts for Male to convert, giving Pontypool a five points lead at half-time.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
PONTYPOOL ..... 1 goal  
GLOUCESTER ..... Nil

Cliff Richards restarted for Pontypool, who at once commenced to attack, and for a while play rested at the home 25. Then Pontypool tried passing, and Gloucester, in their anxiety not to give Richards a chance, allowed Morgan to make a beautiful burst; but Richards failed to take a long pass when the defence appeared to be absolutely beaten.

Failure on the part of Millington to get rid of the ball made the Gloucester position more difficult, but the next moment Millington retrieved his mistake, and as a result the Gloucester forwards took play well up the field. In the loose Pontypool were having the better of matters, but the Pontypool backs could not really get going, the Gloucester defence being very sound.

Failure to catch on the part of David gave Pontypool an excellent attacking position within a couple of yards of the visitors' line, and Uren and Jerman both made desperate attempts to get over, but they were called back for infringements, and Millington gained relief with a well-timed kick to touch.

Pontypool, however, were not long to be kept out. Skym intercepted a pass from Gough to Millington and ran to Collett before he passed out to George Morgan, who scored Pontypool's second try underneath the posts. Male had no difficulty in converting.

For a time Gloucester attacked, but they were soon driven back into their own half by Male's touch-finding and saving in the face of forward rushes.

Gloucester tried hard to gain relief, but in their over-anxiety they got off-side and injured their chances of gaining relief instead of helping them. The greasy ball was now, however, having its effect, and neither side handled well. Once the Gloucester backs passed splendidly but when the ball reached Hughes he knocked on.

Towards the end Gloucester made a great revival, and in one movement their forwards carried the ball the whole length of the field before Male picked up from their feet and sent the ball to touch. Pontypool attacked again before the end.

RESULT :  
PONTYPOOL ..... 2 goals (10 points)  
GLOUCESTER ..... Nil

GLOUCESTER A v. LYDNEY A.

Owing to the severe frost, the Kingsholm ground was found unfit and the match between Gloucester A and Lydney A was accordingly abandoned.