

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1929

GLOUCESTER, 3 pts; SWANSEA, 9 pts.

NO RECORDS SET UP TO-DAY.

CITY IN A SUBDUED MOOD.

STUBBORN DEFENCE FOILS THEIR EFFORTS.

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Having broken the long record of defeats in Wales by beating Cardiff a fortnight ago, Gloucester visited Swansea to-day with more confidence, though the absence of McCanlis (who had promised to play in an old boys' match) seriously weakened the City back division. The three-quarter line was re-organised, Abbey going centre, and Orpin (who had previously been tried in the inside position) appearing on the wing. Nine forwards made the journey, including Crichton-Miller, who made a successful appearance for the club against Oxford University on Wednesday.

Swansea have a young and clever team, and though the Welsh Trial claimed the services of two or three of their best players the side was a strong one. Gloucester had not previously won a match at St. Helen's, the best performance being a draw.

Gloucester had a big disappointment this morning, Saxby sending word that he could not play owing to a bad boil under his arm. Hemming, therefore, took his place in the team. For Swansea, H. Fry Jones was full-back and F. Presley appeared in the forwards vice W. Davies.

It was a tedious journey down and the train arrived nearly 40 minutes late. The afternoon turned out wretched, rain falling heavily and the conditions generally were very miserable. The attendance was considerably affected, and the cheap side of the ground was nearly empty, practically all the spectators had wisely got under cover.

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : G. Orpin, R. James, L. E. Abbey, and R. N. Loveridge.

HALF-BACKS : F. Price and E. Stephens.

FORWARDS : J. Davies, A. Carpenter, F. Wadley, G. Foulkes, E. Comley, J. Hemming, D. Crichton-Miller, and F. Russell.

SWANSEA.

BACK : E. Fry Jones.

THREE-QUARTERS : J. P. Tyler, C. Davey, J. E. Bowen, and T. A. Hill.

HALF-BACKS : Bryn Evans and W. J. Trew.

FORWARDS : M. Bowen, W. Clement, W. Davies, D. F. Thomas, D. Thomas, Jack Rees, F. Presley, and E. Long.

Referee : Mr. W. J. Davies (Llanelly).

THE GAME.

From the return to the kick-off Gloucester were penalised for holding the ball and Swansea at once got an attacking position. Trew put the home team close with a clever touch finder and later the same player was nearly over from a pass by Evans.

The Welshmen continued to press and the City conceded a minor. From the drop-out Gloucester reached their opponents' 25, but they were quickly sent back by well judged kicking. Penalties followed to either side, Swansea gaining the advantage.

ABBHEY'S NEAT FOOTWORK.

Gloucester burst through well but Jones robbed them and punted back nicely. Abbey shone with neat footwork after a Swansea movement had broken down, but the City could not maintain their position and were soon forced to defend. Comely marked cleverly in the face of keen opposition but his kick was well returned and the Welshmen got close.

Opening out from touch the Swansea backs passed beautifully and TYLER, making a determined dash, scored in the corner. Davey missed the goal points.

FORWARDS' GOOD WORK.

Good work by the Gloucester forwards on the restart carried play into the Swansea 25, but a long kick changed the position. A lovely touch-finder by Jones placed Swansea close but James brought relief and the forwards improved with loose footwork and close tackling.

A DOUBTFUL TRY.

Off-side lost the City a nice position and a penalty against Price gave Swansea more ground. Stephens made headway with a good kick, but the Swansea forwards rushed back and the visitors were again placed on the defensive. Davey and Tyler had an opening on the right but knocked on badly. The infringement, however, was allowed to pass and the ball being taken over the line, DAVEY was credited with a corner try, a very doubtful point. The goal kick was a failure.

Swansea were now six points up and on the play they deserved their lead. Resuming, the City forwards brought off a superb rush half the length of the ground and for the first time Swansea were in danger. There was a quick pick up and pass out to Orpin, who tried hard to get through, but was tackled and lost the ball. Swansea came right away to the other end where the Gloucester line underwent severe pressure. The defence, however, held out though the City had one or two narrow escapes. Visiting forwards, with Miller and Russell prominent, brought the game out to midfield.

HALF-TIME :
SWANSEA 2 tries
GLOUCESTER Nil

Considering the conditions the football had been interesting with Swansea superior except in loose forward rushes where Gloucester had done remarkably well. Behind the scrum, however, the Welshmen were smarter and the more finished, and kicked with better judgment. Both full-backs fielded the greasy ball well, and made few mistakes.

Swansea restarted and early on James made a good mark when closely pressed. His kick found touch at half-way where operations were contested until Swansea were awarded a penalty. With the resultant kick the home team got to within a dozen yards of the City line.

A SOFT TRY.

A knock-on spoilt a good opening but immediately after a Gloucester player failed to catch the ball and EVANS securing, scored a soft try in the corner. The place for goal was a poor one.

On the restart Gloucester showed up promisingly but little aggressive work was seen from the visitors, except through the forwards. The latter often made headway but the Swansea backs recovered with splendidly judged kicks.

A STUBBORN DEFENCE.

James, with a kick through and follow up gave Gloucester a good position and later the backs handled neatly but James failed to hold Abbey's pass. Boughton had a shot for goal from a penalty but it went wide of the upright, and Jones punted out to touch.

Gloucester went strongly again but could not beat a stubborn defence. Boughton had another place for goal from a penalty but could not cover the cross-bar though the attempt was well directed.

CITY MORE IN PICTURE.

Gloucester were doing better now, and having more than their fair share of the game, which was mainly confined to the forwards. Price eventually opened out, and Stephens sent to James who took a drop for goal but missed the mark.

The City maintained the territorial advantage until Swansea got the better of an exchange of kicks. Gloucester worked back but when the ball got out Stephens kicked too much.

A mistake in gathering led to a sharp attack by Swansea, but the visitors got out of the difficulty, and later visited their opponents' end.

LITTLE COMBINATION.

Gloucester, however, never inspired confidence in attack, there being little combination and less finish. A big breakaway by the home forwards led to the City line being in jeopardy.

Long, a Swansea forward, was injured in gathering and had to be carried off.

Subsequent play was keen and fast with the forwards mainly occupied. Abbey made a good attempt to get through but was foiled and Swansea rushed to the other end where there were some exciting exchanges.

Gloucester made another effort to open their account but could not get any luck until MILLER broke away and scored a brilliant try. Boughton failed with the kick.

RESULT :

SWANSEA 3 tries (9 points)
GLOUCESTER 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

Swansea earned their victory but Gloucester put up a fine struggle in the second half, the forwards especially doing well.

Crichton-Miller's try was the feature of the match, and was a brilliant solo effort from near the half-way. He had the defence beaten for speed and was warmly applauded for his effort.

The Gloucester backs did not get the opportunities which fell to their opponents, but they were not so clever or finished. Miller, Davies, and Wadley were the pick of the City forwards who might have turned the game in their side's favour with better support from behind.

Boughton and Jones did splendidly at full-back for their respective sides, and there was little to choose between them.

JC