

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1913

FOOTBALL.

RUGBY.

GLOUCESTER v. PONTYPOOL.

CITY'S USUAL DEFEAT IN WALES.

OUTPLAYED AND WELL BEATEN.

(By P.M.C.)

The return match between these clubs was played at Pontypool. In the first game at Kingsholm the Monmouthshire men won by 3 dropped goals (12 points) to 2 goals (1p) (8 points), and Pontypool, who are very strong at home, were expected to repeat their success to-day.

Gloucester were short of C. Cook and Dix, their places being filled by Hayward and Humphries, the latter making his debut in important football.

Pontypool fielded a powerful team.

Gloucester. – F. W. Hayward; A. Hudson, A. Lewis, L. Hamblin, and W. Washbourn; J. Humphries and W. Wilkes; G. Halford, G. Vears, N. Hayes, W. Johns, A. Saunders, S. Millard, A. Cook, and W. Dovey.

Pontypool. – W. Vallis; Jack Jones, R. Harry, A. Robbins, and H. Marks; R. Lloyd and J. S. Ryan; H. Jarman, F. Andrews, F. Talbot, E. Stephens, A. Hockey, G. Carr, G. Oliver, and G. Vater.

Referee : Mr. E. Roberts (Welsh Union).

## THE GAME.

For the first time for many Saturdays there was no rain. Pontypool had Tuan Jones away, but had the assistance of J. S. Ryan, Old Merchant Taylors. The ground was soft in places, but the weather was bright.

Halford started for Gloucester, and an exchange of kicks left the game in the Pontypool 25. Hayward fumbled a return, and Robbins dribbled close, but with the ball within a yard of the line Hayward got back and just managed to turn back to touch. A minute later a wide throw-out looked certain to end in a score, but Hudson got across and brought off a fine tackle, touch-in-goal resulting. Pontypool were getting the ball in the scrum and pressing hard, and from a forward rush Stephens went over in the corner. Talbot failed.

Following a line-out at the centre Alec Lewis intercepted cleverly and ran clear. He punted over the back's head, but Marks coming across at a great speed kicked dead and saved a certain score. Centre play followed for some time, the Gloucester forwards doing better.

A couple of penalties for fouls were given against Pontypool, but the visitors made little ground, and the homesters were quickly in the Gloucester 25 again. A nice bit of work by Washbourn and Lewis, however, centred play, Vallis being conspicuous with a good save.

Wilkes cut through prettily, but Harry marked, and returned, but Gloucester had a minor with a long kick. Harry intercepted a lobbing pass in his own 25 and ran clear, but Hamblin turned the ball to touch. Pontypool tried passing twice in quick succession, but were a bit slow, and Gloucester were able to clear. Lloyd was temporarily laid out with a blow on the head, but was quickly in evidence again, setting his threes moving nicely, but Gloucester cleared again, and the forwards took the game to the centre. Lewis gained ground with a good touch-finder, and the City got a footing in the Pontypool 25, but the visitors' passing was much too slow.

Off-side by Humphries lost Gloucester their position, and the home forwards getting possession of the ball in two scrums out of three, their three-quarters had many chances, but Gloucester tackled surely. Just before half-time a lovely bit of work by Lewis, Hamblin, and Washbourn ended in the last named only just being upset two yards out.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Pontypool ..... 1 try  
Gloucester ..... Nil

Resuming, Pontypool at once rushed to the Gloucester line, but Hamblin, as usual, was the saving clause, punting out under difficulties. Gloucester, however, were quickly on the defensive again. The visitors got the ball out, but it went straight across the field, and no ground was gained. Pontypool continued to press, and then Lewis opened out, and Hudson punted up to Vallis. The home custodian, however, returned finely, and play settled in neutral territory. By loose scrambling play chiefly Pontypool gradually worked their way back to the Gloucester line, and after Ryan had only just been collared in time Robbins went over in the corner, after passing by Lloyd, Ryan, and Harry. No goal resulted.

Pontypool were quickly in the Gloucester 25 again, but Lewis nipping through prettily kicked clear. Jack Jones gained ground with a punt, but a free to Gloucester neutralised this. From an attempt by Vallis to kick a mark goal, Hamblin fumbled, and a scrum was called right under the Gloucester post, but Wilkes cleared. Several scrums followed within six or seven yards of the Gloucester line, and from a neat opening by Lloyd Robbins doubled inwards and dived over with a clever try, although tackled. Vallis majorised.

Pontypool continued to have the best of matters, and only a daring save by Lewis prevented the forwards getting over. Pontypool rushed to the Gloucester line once more, and a lovely bit of work by Lloyd, Ryan, and Marks beat the Gloucester defence entirely, and the wing man went over with a good try for Vallis to improve.

Gloucester got away to the centre after this, and aided by a free-kick gained a bit more ground, but the Pontypool forwards rushed again in great style, only to be sent back by a penalty for off-side. Gloucester now were well in the Pontypool 25, but the home outsides got possession again, and although Jack Jones was well tackled the centre was reached. Here some desperate work followed between the rival sets of forwards, in which the Pontypool front got the best of matters.

Marks was set going once, and when tackled threw the ball away blindly and lost what looked like a fine opportunity. With the forwards still getting the ball in the scrum Pontypool had plenty of chances, but the 'Cestrian threes tackled well. Ryan, however, sold the "dummy" to the right wing and scored in the corner. Vallis failed.

The Pontypool forwards made tremendous efforts to add to the score, and although near the line for a long time the Gloucester defence stood the severe strain very well, and no more was scored.

#### RESULT :

Pontypool ...	2 goals 3 tries (19 points)
Gloucester .....	Nil

#### REMARKS.

Gloucester were beaten in front for possession and behind for pace, but their greatest hardship was the absence of Dix at scrum half. Humphries, although he tried hard, was no match either for guile or speed for Lloyd, who behind winning forwards had a rare day out.

The splendid tackling of Lewis, Hamblin, and Washbourn was responsible for the break up of the majority of Pontypool's attacks, but the home men's superiority was very marked, and they were fully entitled to their win of 19 points.

Individual comment on the front rank is not called for. Although beaten they were not by any means disgraced.

## GLOUCESTER A v. ST. PAUL'S TRAINING COLLEGE.

### SECONDS WIN A POOR GAME.

Played at Kingsholm before a small crowd.

Hayward and L. Humphries, who had gone to Pontypool for the First team, were deputised by Ruck and T. Powell respectively.

Gloucester A. – E. Ruck; F. Webb, F. Bloxsome, W. Sysum, and E. Bowen; A. Hamblin and T. Powell; F. Pegler, H. G. Kingscote, C. Mumford, F. Yates, E. Bryant, W. Parham, W. Osborne, and Lewis.

St. Paul's College. – H. C. Lacey; C. Booth, Stanley Cook, J. Evans, and H. W. J. Wager; I. B. Evans and G. F. Wheeler; A. Armstrong, S. S. Borden, F. W. Lockley, J. A. Knowles, J. T. Templeton, W. Jackson, J. G. H. Riddick, and B. Dyson.

Play opened very quietly at the centre, but Gloucester eventually got down with good kicking and forced a minor. Following the drop-out, the Collegians indulged in a good bout of passing, but Cook failed to take a pass from Booth, and the ball went to touch. Gloucester assumed the aggressive, and Sysum narrowly missed dropping a goal with a clever screw kick. Weak kicking by the visitors placed their lines in danger, and a mistake in fielding gave Bowen a simple try. Ruck missed the goal points.

On the resumption Cook showed up with a clever run from off his own goal, and a subsequent passing move gave Wager possession on the right. Powell, however, tackled his man in good style. From a mark Cook had a shot for goal, but sent wide, and Gloucester cleared. A loose kick took the Seconds well down, where a knock-on lost a possible opening. Gloucester still attacked, and from a cross-kick by Ruck there was every chance of a score. Webb tricked his opponent nicely and passed inside to Sysum, who lost the ball in going over the line.

Subsequent play was scrambling, the half-back play on both sides being very moderate, and allowing of little open work. From a penalty at half-way Ruck had a shot for goal, a splendid kick going outside. The game to the interval was absolutely lacking in incident, and nothing further was done in the way of scoring.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A ..... 1 try  
St. Paul's College ..... Nil

When the game was resumed Sysum and Powell changed positions, but the opening play was as feeble and scrappy as could be imagined. Sysum at length broke away from a scrum, and punting ahead, Webb raced up and gathering the ball on the bounce went over the line with a good try. Ruck failed at goal.

Cook was prominent with a sharp burst, but his pass was not taken with a good opening. Wretched fumbling by Sysum allowed the College to dribble close, but Ruck cleared with a smart touch-kick. The College had the better of subsequent exchanges, but ability was sadly lacking, Cook easily standing out by himself for class work.

Gloucester attacked by the aid of good kicking, but the College quickly relieved through Cook with a splendid touch-kick from a penalty. The visitors opening out, Wager had a dash on the right, but his career was checked ten yards from the line. The Seconds changed the venue, and for off-side were awarded a penalty in front of the goal, but Ruck failed with his kick.

Ensuing play showed no improvement, but just before the end the College attacked, and Cook had hard lines in missing a dropped goal, the ball hitting the upright and going the wrong side of the post.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ..... 2 tries (6 points)  
St. Paul's College ..... Nil