

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1913

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. ABERTILLERY.

CITY TEAM DISAPPOINTING.

BEATEN BY SEVEN POINTS.

For their visit to Abertillery to-day Gloucester were able to take a representative team (Webb for Washbourne, who is suffering with an injured shoulder, being the only change from the original selection), and bearing in mind 'Tillery's moderate form this season, the City were expected to win. Gloucester had not previously beaten the Monmouthshire team away, but on two occasions the City were only poorly represented.

The teams were : —

GLOUCESTER.	POSITIONS.	ABERTILLERY.
C. Cook	Backs.	T. Norris
A. Hudson (capt.)	Three-Quarter	W. Richards
A. Lewis	Backs	E. Marsh
L. Hamblin	"	W. J. Thomas
F. Webb	"	F. Taylor
W. Dix	Half-Backs	E. P. Edwards
W. Wilkes	"	E. Hill
G. Halford	Forwards	Jack Webb
W. Johns	"	G. Webb
N. Hayes	"	W. Romans
G. Vears	"	H. Dean
A. Saunders	"	J. B. Jones
A. Cook	"	G. Williams
S. Millard	"	R. W. Thomas
W. Dovey	"	J. Jones

Referee : Mr. J. E. Webb (Newport).

THE GAME.

Abertillery were without two of their best forwards in Hale and Simmonds. Owing to the late arrival of the visitors it was four o'clock when the teams fielded before the best attendance of the season.

Jack Webb started for Abertillery, Lewis putting in a good reply. The visiting forwards dribbled grandly to the home 25, where Marsh got possession and broke back to the centre before being stopped by Webb.

Interpassing between Edwards and Marsh took play to the Gloucester half, and Wilkes was hard pressed to save. Then Edwards started the Abertillery backs going beautifully, and Taylor was nearly over, Hamblin tackling him but could not prevent him handing to Reg Thomas, who went over with a good try. Jack Webb failed to convert.

By good footwork the visitors got in a splendid position for a score, but the backs were slow, and failed to take advantage of their opportunities. Reg Thomas and Jack Webb dribbled well for Abertillery, and were almost over, but Hudson, picking up at their feet, sent cleverly to touch. Cook, the visiting custodian, put in some fine kicks, but failed to obtain relief for the visitors, the home forwards time after time returning to the attack.

Eventually Hudson broke away splendidly, and punted up to the home full back, who failed to field, and Hudson was dribbling on when Marsh cut across and sent into touch with a flying kick.

Desperate scrummaging took place on the home line, but Abertillery showed fine defence, Marsh and Norris being especially brilliant. Dix nearly got through, being held up on the line.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Abertillery 1 try
Gloucester Nil

Gloucester restarted in determined style, but although the forwards worked well the backs failed to get properly going.

Marsh put the home side in an attacking position, and with play in front of the Gloucester posts Norris fielded well from a punt by Lewis and, steadying himself, dropped a good goal.

Abertillery continued to have the best of matters, and Norris just failed to drop another goal. Abertillery were now having much the better of matters, and kept Gloucester continually on the defensive.

The backs, however, showed sterling work, Hamblin and Lewis being very prominent in this direction. Edwards was nearly in for Abertillery after fine passing, Hamblin holding him up on the line.

The Gloucester forwards next made onslaughts on the home line as the result of quick following up, but Norris drove them back with good kicking. The Gloucester backs tried passing on several occasions, but they were easily stopped by Marsh and Willie Thomas.

Once Lewis looked like going through but got into a bunch of opponents, and was brought down. Marsh, with timely kicking, returned play to the centre, and although the visiting backs tried all they knew they failed to get back again.

RESULT :

Abertillery 1 goal (d) 1 try (7 points)
Gloucester Nil

REMARKS.

Our Abertillery correspondent telegraphs : –

Abertillery certainly won on their merits, for they were superior both in front and behind. The Gloucester forwards had the worst of the scrums, whilst they did not show the dash expected in the open.

Hamblin and Hudson were the pick of the back division, and several time saved in grand style when it looked odds on further scoring. The passing of the visiting backs was erratic, and they certainly lost opportunities in the last half.

JC