

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 1898

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. LLWYNYPIA

THE CITY TEAM DEFEATED BY A POINT

The City team made their first appearance in the Rhondda Valley this afternoon, when they opposed Llwynypia, the champions of the District League. The match aroused great interest in the neighbourhood, as it was practically the only fixture of importance down for decision in South Wales to-day. Gloucester were again unable to take a full team into the Principality; for though Percy Stout re-appeared after an absence of three weeks, his brother Frank, C. Williams, Hatherall and Pitt were away. Llwynypia had a couple of men absent (Alexander and Thomas) but the fifteen which turned out was a formidable combination. The names and positions of the rival players were : —

GLOUCESTER	Positions	LLWYNYPIA
B. Hipwood	Backs	T. Saunders
W. H. Taylor (capt.)	Three-quarters	W. M. Llewellyn
H. Broady	"	R. Foster
P. W. Stout	"	J. E. Jones
G. F. Clutterbuck	"	Ben Morgan
Car Cummings	Half-backs	Andrew Powell
G. Hall	"	I. Edmunds
F. Oswell	Forwards	R. Hellings (capt.)
C. Hall	"	R. Jones
C. Rose	"	R. T. Phillips
A. H. Click	"	W. Gabe
W. Hughes	"	J. Bowen
B. L. Watkins	"	G. Evans
F. Goulding	"	J. Atkins
G. Smith	"	A. Powell

Referee : Mr. W. Bowen (Cardiff)

The homesters kicked off, and the visitors, aided by a slight breeze, assumed the aggressive. Smith, picking up smartly, put in a long kick which compelled Saunders to concede a minor. A moment later C. Hall scored, and Stout converted.

Soon after the home forwards showed to advantage, and exacted a minor. Up to now the game was of a very fast and open character, the visitors several times attacking, and a second minor being conceded.

The visitors brought off several bouts of passing which compelled the homesters to act on the defensive, Taylor frequently prominent. The home forwards, now getting the best of matters, took play close to the visitors' line, where they were penalised. Stout, however, found touch, after which the home pack, playing well together, again attacked. They were still on the aggressive when half-time was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 goal
Llwynypia	Nil

Stout re-started, and following up with a smart run put in a kick which found touch close to the home line. A moment later the same player nearly dropped a goal.

The homesters after this got close up to Gloucester's goal, but Clutterbuck, with a fine kick, relieved to over half-way. Playing in magnificent style they took the leather to dangerous proximity of the home line, but, being penalised, lost ground. Beautiful forward play by the 'Cestrians again put the home citadel in danger, but G. Evans relieved just as a score seemed imminent.

The homesters, with strong forward play retaliated to within the visitors' quarters. Hellings' men were not to be denied. Powell, picking up, passed to Foster, and the latter transferred to Llewellyn, who got over in the corner. Saunders only missed negotiating by a few inches.

After the re-start the homesters again got on the aggressive, but Stout cleared his line in fine style. Foster soon after made another attempt at goal, a minor falling to the Welshmen. The homesters severely pressed until the call of time, and a moment before the end Llewellyn again scored amid great cheering.

RESULT :

Llwynypia 2 tries (6 points)
Gloucester 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS

In the first half Gloucester played magnificently, displaying better science and being aggressive throughout. Their backs were more than a match for the homesters. In the second half the scale turned in favour of Llwynypia, who played a hard and fast game throughout.

Llewellyn (three-quarter) put in exceptionally smart runs, and his two splendid tries won the match by a point.

GLOUCESTER A v. BERKELEY AND SHARPNESS

THE CITY JUNIORS WIN COMFORTABLY

Played at Kingsholm, before a fair attendance of spectators. Gloucester won the first match by 11 points to nil, and though four of the regular players (G. Hall, Smith, Hughes, and Oswell) were away doing duty for the Senior team at Llwynypia, Captain Barnes fully anticipated registering another victory.

The teams were : –

GLOUCESTER A. – G. Romans, back; C. Smith, W. Dovey, R. Goddard, and E. T. James, three-quarter backs; A. Lansley and J. Barnes, half-backs; G. Barnes (capt.), W. Manley, F. Hughes, A. Mills, W. White, S. Payne, G. Corbett, and P. Holder, forwards.

BERKELEY AND SHARPNESS : – S. Powell, back; C. Davis, T. Whitby, A. Cummings, and F. Wilkins, three-quarter backs; W. Morgan and W. Webb, half-backs; C. Reeves, F. Sumsion, F. Skidmore, W. Portlock, A. Bick, W. Stump, R. Hickman, and W. Brewer, forwards.

Referee : Mr. G. Thomas (Gloucester County Union).

The visitors came two short, but secured capable substitutes. Berkeley won the toss, and G. Barnes started for Gloucester against the wind. Play opened at the centre, where the Gloucester backs were twice given possession, but the passing was very faulty and ground was lost. The Gloucester forwards proved themselves very smart in getting the ball back, but Lansley failed to gather on two occasions. J. Barnes getting a kick charged down, the visitors looked dangerous, but Romans cleared his lines grandly.

Ensuing play favoured Berkeley, and Romans was again called upon to save, which he did effectually. A smart dash by James enabled Gloucester to get beyond the centre, where Berkeley were penalised for off-side play. At this point Cummings appeared to assist the visitors (who had started with 14 men), and the St. Mark's centre was immediately prominent by cleverly snapping a Gloucester pass. The home team, however, worked towards their opponents' line, and, following a smart movement by Dovey, Smith scored in the corner. The place kick failed.

Berkeley dropped out, but play was of a scrambling nature. Lansley and J. Barnes were continually given possession of the ball, but the latter passed badly, and the three-quarters were consequently severely handicapped.

By useful kicks Berkeley found a footing in the home half, but Gloucester worked back. For palpable off-side play by their half-backs, Berkeley were penalised, and Goddard landed a lovely goal from a favourable position.

On the re-start Berkeley played up pluckily, and by short forward rushes and useful kicks kept operations confined to the Gloucester half. The home team worked hard to change the venue, but the visitors were not to be put off, and eventually Gloucester had to touch down.

Ensuing play to the interval resolved itself into a succession of loose scrambling rushes, totally devoid of interest. Before the whistle sounded half-time, however, Berkeley forced another minor.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	1 goal (p), 1 try
Berkeley	Nil

Berkeley resumed hostilities, and after a series of exchange kicks the visitors were penalised for off-side. The Gloucester captain had the ball taken to where it was last kicked from, and only the City forwards being up they rushed away and nearly scored, a minor being recorded.

Berkeley dropped out, and Cummings early distinguished himself with a tricky run, but he passed badly on reaching Romans, and a good chance of scoring was lost. Immediately after Berkeley were awarded a penalty in a good position, but the kick at goal was unsuccessful.

The Berkeley forwards were now having the better of matters, and by loose rushes gave the Gloucester backs a good deal of trouble. The home team had to concede another minor, but immediately on the drop-out the Gloucester forwards went down the field, and Berkeley had to do likewise.

Ensuing play was of a rough-and-tumble character, and calls for but little description. Smith made one big attempt to score after a good run, but he was smothered about a dozen yards outside. In the last ten minutes Gloucester kept up a vigorous onslaught on their opponents' goal, and several times came near scoring. Smith made one or two determined bursts, and at length he was rewarded for his efforts by scoring a capital try. Goddard converted.

The kick-off was splendidly returned by Romans beyond the centre flag. From this point the home men made tracks for the Berkeley line, and a brilliant bit of passing nearly let James in on the right wing. From the ensuing scrum Lansley got hold and passed to J. Barnes, who wriggled over with another try. The place-kick failed.

Just before the finish Barnes scored again, but Goddard's shot at goal, though a grand attempt, just failed.

RESULT :

Gloucester ... 2 goals (1 p), 3 tries (17 points)
Berkeley Nil

REMARKS

Until the last ten minutes the game was of a very poor description, the Gloucester half-backs (especially J. Barnes) performing very moderately. During the latter portion, however, the home team warmed to their work, and fairly smothered the opposition. Romans played a fine game at full-back for the winners, his kicking generally being of admirable length and well judged.

The Berkeley forwards played a loose rushing game, and by those tactics bothered the home men a good bit. Their backs made few attempts at passing, but the two centres and full-back all kicked exceptionally well.

For Gloucester, Smith made several dashing bursts in the second half, and James, on the other wing, also did well. Goddard was the better of the two centres. Of the home forwards Payne, Manley, Holder, and G. Barnes were the more prominent in the open.