

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1898

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CARDIFF

THE WELSHMEN AT KINGSHOLM

THE GROUND RECORD GONE

A TEN POINTS' VICTORY FOR CARDIFF

At Kingsholm. The annual visit of the famous Cardiff team to the city club's enclosure as usual created considerable excitement in local football circles. Of late years Cardiff have asserted their superiority over Gloucester in very decided fashion, the city team having failed to score a win against their formidable opponents since 1891-2.

With Gloucester going so wonderfully well in the first part of the season it was hoped that the long series of victories registered by the Welsh Metropolitans would receive a check when they appeared at Kingsholm. Since the record was broken, however, the City team have performed but moderately, and the prospect of achieving a triumph to-day was regarded as very remote.

As in most of their matches since Christmas, Gloucester were again weakly represented, four good forwards in Frank Stout, C. Williams, Watkins, and Pitt being unable to appear. Car Cummings was also an absentee, the Selection Committee preferring the services of A. Lansley to those of the county half-back.

Cardiff placed a powerful team in the field, though Gwyn Nicholls (regarded as the finest centre in Wales) was conspicuous by his absence. Beautiful weather prevailed, and the ground was in grand condition.

An excursion from Cardiff brought about a thousand supporters of the visiting team, and the gate appeared to be the largest of the season, the crowd being closely packed nearly all round the enclosure. The wait for the appearance of the rival teams was whiled away by a capital selection of music by Hinton's Band.

The players entered the field at 3.25 and met with an enthusiastic reception. Little time was wasted, and the men lined up in the following order : –

GLOUCESTER	Positions	CARDIFF
B. Hipwood	Backs	T. J. Thomas
G. F. Clutterbuck	Three-quarters	V. Huzzey
P. W. Stout	"	A. M. Ricketts
H. Broady	"	W. Jones
W. H. Taylor (capt.)	"	J. Driscoll
A. D. Lansley	Half-backs	S. Biggs
G. Hall	"	J. E. Elliott
T. Hatherall	Forwards	T. Dobson
C. Hall	"	G. Dobson
C. Rose	"	F. Cornish
W. Hughes	"	W. Phillips
A. H. Click	"	J. Blake
F. Goulding	"	W. McIntyre
F. Oswell	"	E. Emery
G. H. Smith	"	G. Abbott

Referee : Mr. A. Lawes (Bristol)

THE GAME

Cardiff were successful in the spin of the coin, and elected to defend the Dean's Walk goal. Hall started for Gloucester, the home team having the sun in their eyes. A good return was made to the kick-off, and the first line-out took place almost on the centre line.

Gloucester was penalised for an infringement in the scrum, and by the aid of the kick the visitors made some dozen yards or so. The home team, however, were almost immediately favoured, and this was followed by another free to Cardiff. By the aid of the latter kick the Welshmen reached the home 25, and Cardiff attacked for a moment or two. The visitors heeled out cleanly, but Lansley stopped the passing, and kicked into touch neatly.

Elliott picking out of the scrum set his three-quarters in motion, but each man in turn was collared, and no ground was gained. Subsequently the ball got loose, and Clutterbuck and several forwards dribbled beyond the centre. The rush was checked slightly, but the Gloucester men again secured, and the ball being dribbled over the line Thomas was forced to kick dead – a performance he just accomplished in time. The drop-out was well returned, but Huzzey with a big punt sent the ball over the line, and P. Stout touched down.

On the re-start, play settled in the home 25, where Gloucester were called upon to do some close tackling. This they did effectually, but at length the visiting front rank, with a superb burst, rushed the ball over the goal line, but only a minor was awarded.

Percy Stout dropped out, Thomas sending to touch near the half-way. From a subsequent scrum the visitors indulged in a bout of passing, and Huzzey punted down to within the home quarters. Here Jones, getting possession, dropped for goal, which only just missed, whilst several forwards who were well up almost succeeded in scoring a try, C. Hall eventually dropping on the leather. On the re-start Cardiff returned to the attack, and from a scrimmage Biggs got hold and passed to Elliott, who sent to Ricketts. The latter easily beat the opposition, and went over with a good try, amidst the cheers of the Cardiff spectators. Huzzey made a poor attempt to convert.

Stout dropped out, but the ensuing play was very slack. Operations were mainly confined to the home half, and eventually Ricketts kicked dead. Jones received from the drop-out, and punted down to Percy Stout, who found touch nicely.

From the line-out the Gloucester forwards were prominent with a fine burst, and a little later P. Stout and Taylor got in useful kicks, which enabled the home men to reach their opponents' half. From this point Selwyn Biggs made a brilliant opening, and after Jones and Huzzey had handled, the latter screw-kicked into the centre of the ground, but his forwards knocked on in taking the ball when there was a fine opening. Immediately after the Cardiff forwards and backs indulged in some brilliant hand to hand passing, and they seemed bound to score, but Gloucester tackled well.

The visitors continued to have all the game, and the home men had several anxious moments. From another fine movement Cornish all but scored, Gloucester just managing to touch down near the posts. The drop-out brought no relief to Gloucester, and just now the home men were being hopelessly beaten.

Taylor punted to Thomas just outside the 25 flag, and the Gloucester captain ran with the intention of preventing a return. The visiting custodian, however, tricked Taylor very neatly, and with a beautifully-judged kick sent the ball sailing over the cross bar, this effort giving Cardiff a lead of seven points.

Hall re-started from the centre, but hostilities were wholly confined to the Gloucester end. The Cardiff backs exhibited some brilliant bits of passing, but Gloucester managed to prevent any addition to the score before the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Cardiff 1 goal (d), 1 try
Gloucester Nil

Cardiff restarted, play opening at the centre. The home team were almost immediately penalised, but the Welshmen gained little by the kick. By good forward work the City team gradually gained ground, and but for two marvellous kicks by Ricketts under great disadvantage, would have done infinitely better.

For the next few minutes Gloucester held their own splendidly, but Selwyn Biggs at length sneaked away from a scrum, and got in a good punt to near the home line. Percy Stout picked up, and executed a magnificent run through practically the whole of the opposing team. On reaching Thomas the Gloucesterian punted, the ball going into touch inside the Cardiff half. Play did not stay here long for in less than two minutes Cardiff were busy round the home line.

The visiting back division were continually given possession, but Jones held too long on two occasions, or a certain score would have resulted. The Gloucester defence was sorely taxed just now, but it proved very sound for a time. Cardiff, however, did not relax their efforts, and following another fine movement Biggs scored in the corner. No goal resulted.

Gloucester dropped out, but the game was immediately taken to the home 25, where the City players were kept busily on the defence. The Cardiff backs passed beautifully, but at the last moment Gloucester managed to save. Ricketts made one very fine effort to get over in the corner, but Taylor and Stout proved too much for him, and he was forced into touch in goal.

Thomas mulled the kick out, and Smith and Hughes floored him before he could get in a kick. Rushing the scrum which followed, Gloucester reached the visitors' half and kept things moving very well. Elliott and Biggs, however, between them took the game back, but Gloucester got back again. Following up a punt by C. Hall the Gloucester forwards got on their opponents, and four men who in turn received were floored immediately, this taking place on the Cardiff 25.

The home men, urged on by the shouts of their supporters, struggled hard to effect a score, but they were beaten off. Then, from a pass, Ricketts made off across the ground, but Taylor stuck to him, and bowled his man over into touch, amidst the shouts of the spectators. Ensuing play was fast and interesting, but in favour of Cardiff, who had another turn of attacking. They were, however, kept out, and Lansley getting in a neat run and kick the home men reached the quarter flag.

Biggs, with a capital effort, took play back to within a dozen yards of the home line, where he essayed a pass, which, however, was not taken. By dint of hard work Gloucester removed operations to more suitable quarters. Hall at length sent out a pass to Percy Stout, who after beating his man, sent out to Taylor. The home captain put "full pace" on, but unfortunately he failed to take the ball. After this the Gloucester lines were several times placed in serious danger, but Cardiff could not add to the score.

RESULT :

Cardiff 1 goal (d), 2 tries (10 points)
Gloucester Nil

REMARKS

Gloucester played a plucky game, but on the day's play there were palpably outclassed by a combination clearly superior in all departments. The ten points victory obtained by Cardiff hardly represents the true character of the game, for the Welshmen kept up an almost continuous attack, and it was only by spasmodic efforts that Gloucester got to midfield.

The visiting forwards generally managed to control the scrums, with the result that Selwyn Biggs and Elliott had plenty to do. At the start the Cardiff pair were a little erratic, but subsequently they settled down and both players made some fine openings. The passing and running of the visiting back division at times was brilliant, but the close collaring of the Gloucester men often spoiled the movements at the critical moment.

Of the Cardiff three-quarters Jones and Driscoll combined very well in the centre, and both ran and dodged very trickily. Ricketts had considerably more to do than Huzzey, and the second teamer got through his work in excellent style. Thomas gave a finished exhibition at full-back, kicking strongly, and seldom making a mistake in fielding.

The Cardiff front rank were a weighty lot, and showed infinitely more resource and cleverness than the home eight. Cornish, the Dobson's, and Blake several times took part in bouts of passing, and the quartette generally were always to the fore.

The Gloucester forwards distinguished themselves with one or two smart bursts, but they were too erratic in footwork, kicking the ball much too hard when getting clear. Hall, Click, Goulding, and Smith were occasionally conspicuous, but there was nothing brilliant accomplished individually.

At half-back, Lansley and Hall were mainly engaged in looking after the opposing couple. The Gloucestersians worked hard, but class will tell, and compared with Elliott and Biggs the home men were altogether out of it. Percy Stout stood out as the most useful of the Gloucester three-quarters, and he did a tremendous amount of saving work. His grand run in the second half was the best individual effort in the match, the way in which he beat his opponents being a treat to witness.

Taylor was not seen at his best; whilst Broady and Clutterbuck failed to shine. Hipwood cleared smartly on several occasions, but his display suffered in comparison with that of his *vis-a-vis*.

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A

THE CITY RESERVES OUTPLAYED

A SEVERE DEFEAT

At Cardiff, in fine weather, before a good crowd. Cardiff were without Ricketts (captain), who played at Gloucester; while Gloucester played several substitutes.

The first half was greatly in favour of Cardiff, who scored immediately on starting. Winfield placed a goal, and then added a penalty. Cardiff pressed continually, but Gloucester defended pluckily. Eventually Cardiff again scored.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Cardiff 13 points
Gloucester Nil

In the second half Cardiff continued to show vastly superior form to that exhibited by Gloucester, and Heaven and Lewis soon scored unimproved tries. Then followed a period of even play, after which Heaven again scored for Cardiff, Winfield converting. Towards the close Cardiff pressed again, and Jones added another try.

RESULT :

Cardiff 4 goals (1 p), 3 tries (27 points)
Gloucester Nil

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