

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1898

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. LLANELLY

CITY TEAM BADLY BEATEN

BROADY'S LEG BROKEN

The City team made the long journey to Llanelly to-day to fulfil the return engagement with the famous Welsh club. Previous matches between the rival teams at Stradey Park have gone almost wholly in favour of Llanelly, the only occasion the City representatives escaped defeat on the Scarlet's enclosure being in season 1890-91, when a pointless draw was recorded.

For the past six or seven years Gloucester have experienced a very rough time of it in Wales, and it is a fact that the club has not scored a solitary win over one of the leading combinations since Cardiff were defeated under Tommy Bagwell's captaincy. In the majority of cases the City club were poorly represented, and this accounts in a large measure for the continual reverses met with.

For once, however, Gloucester succeeded in getting something like a representative side together, and the fifteen which turned out to oppose Llanelly this afternoon were nearly the club's full strength. The names of three prominent players were missing – Hipwood, Car Cummings, and Watkins, – but only the latter could be rightly termed an absentee, as neither Hipwood nor Cummings were originally selected. The action of the Committee in preferring the services of Lansley to Cummings at half-back was severely criticised, it being the general opinion that the second teamer was not class enough to oppose first-class Welsh players.

Otherwise, the team was a good one, though considered hardly smart enough to successfully cope with the Llanelly players. Last year the Scarlets defeated Gloucester by 4 tries to 1, but the team which represented Llanelly on this occasion was undoubtedly one of the smartest combinations ever seen in the Principality.

A close game was expected to-day, Llanelly being regarded as slight favourites, seeing the contest was being played on their own ground. The weather was very unfavourable, drizzling rain falling, whilst the ground was soft and treacherous. The attendance was not so large as expected.

GLOUCESTER	Positions	LLANELLY
G. Romans	Backs	Ivor Lloyd
W. H. Taylor (capt.)	Three-quarters	Evan Lloyd
P. W. Stout	"	T. Powell
H. Broady	"	Ned Jenkins
G. F. Clutterbuck	"	Morgan Williams
A. D. Lansley	Half-backs	Ben Davies
G. Hall	"	D. Davies
C. Williams	Forwards	D. J. Daniell
C. Hall	"	W. Morris
C. Rose	"	Ben James
F. M. Stout	"	Jack Jones
T. Hatherall	"	W. J. Thomas
F. Goulding	"	— . Watts
A. H. Crick	"	W. Walters
G. H. Smith	"	Bob Thomas

Referee : Mr. Gil Evans (Swansea)

THE GAME

Gloucester won the toss, and Ben Davies started for the home team down the slope. With the wind in their favour the Welshmen started off with a great dash, and a few minutes after the start Evan Lloyd almost scored in the corner after passing, a minor being awarded.

On the drop-out the visitors reached the centre, but the Llanelly forwards got off with a fine burst which was only stopped in time. Llanelly continued to attack, and following some cross-dribbling the ball was sent over the line, and Evan Lloyd dropped on it, scoring an easy try. The place-kick failed.

After the re-start the Gloucester forwards brought off a capital rush, and forced Lloyd to kick dead. Llanelly quickly assumed the aggressive again, and after a combined rush by the forwards Ben Davies picked up and sent out to Evan Lloyd, who went over in the corner with two Gloucester men hanging on. It was a very near case of touch-in-goal, but the referee awarded a try. The shot at goal failed.

Gloucester lost Broady immediately on resuming, and Frank Stout was brought out of the scrum. Though severely handicapped, the visitors played splendidly, Taylor, Williams, and Clutterbuck showing up prominently. Llanelly, however, defended well. Just before the interval Daniells added an unconverted try for Llanelly.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Llanelly 3 tries
Gloucester Nil

Charlie Hall re-started for the visitors, and after an exchange of kicks plays settled at the centre. By smart bursts from lines-out Llanelly gradually worked towards the Gloucester line, and the visitors were sorely pressed. A useful dribble relieved slightly, but from a drop at goal by Ben Davies the City team conceded a minor. Percy Stout dropped out, but the Scarlets returned to the attack, and after clever passing Jenkins raced for the line, just managing to place the ball over the mark. The kick was a miserable failure.

On the drop-out Lansley and G. Hall shot up with a smart dribble, but Lloyd sent to Romans, who being hampered, handed to Percy Stout. The latter got in a good run and kick. The Gloucester forwards just now displayed some excellent footwork, but Ivor Lloyd stopped them grandly.

Ensuing play favoured the home team, but was mostly confined to the forwards. Here the Scarlets showed up finely, and following some loose play the ball was kicked past Romans. Ben James raced on and scored the fifth try, which was not converted.

Gloucester were hopelessly outclassed, and Llanelly [1 or 2 words unreadable] penned their opponents on their goal line. The visitors saved several times by touching down, but at length Ben James got across again, this further addition to the score being hailed with enthusiasm. From now to the finish Llanelly pressed severely, Ben Davies making a couple of good runs. There was, however, no addition to the score.

RESULT :

Llanelly 6 tries (18 points)
Gloucester Nil

REMARKS

From the outset the result was never in doubt, and Llanelly fully deserved their brilliant victory. Gloucester were only dangerous about twice, whilst on the other hand the home team only missed [8 or 9 words unreadable].

. . . on losing Broady, whose injury turned out to be very serious – a broken leg just above the ankle, which, it may be stated, was the result of a pure accident. With a man short in the forwards the city pack never had much chance, though they played pluckily and displayed some good footwork. They, however, lacked the cleverness and devil of their opponents.

The Gloucester halves had few opportunities to shine, and the three-quarters were mainly engaged in stopping their opponents. Percy Stout did fairly well, but he was not seen at his best. Romans performed decently at full-back, but he was not so smart as Ivor Lloyd by a good bit.