

# THE CITIZEN

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## FOOTBALL NOTES

### GLOUCESTER'S VICTORY AT CARDIFF

Saturday was indeed a great day in the history of Gloucester football. In the first place, the premier City team had a long-cherished ambition gratified at Cardiff; the Gloucester second string had ample revenge for the defeat they sustained from Cardiff Reserves earlier in the season; whilst, to crown it all, both the Gloucester representatives in the English team had the distinction of scoring tries against Wales.

No wonder local enthusiasts were on the best of terms with themselves on Saturday night. It was a "day out" for the old city in every sense of the word, and no one can begrudge the most being made of the successes gained.

With regard to the match at Cardiff, Gloucester were undoubtedly lucky in meeting their old rivals under such circumstances. But it was only a case of the old order being changed for once.

For several years past the City club have always been sadly handicapped when journeying to Wales by reason of unrepresentative character of the teams sent down, and this accounts for the long series of defeats sustained.

Gloucester's chance came on Saturday, and the City team took full advantage of it, to the great delight of their supporters. It was seven years since Cardiff had had to strike their colours to Gloucester on the Arms Park; whilst another fact worth noting is that it was 12 months ago on Saturday that the City club cracked Llanelly's "sospan" at Kingsholm. This day should be born in mind in the future.

Though the Cardiff spectators appeared to treat the defeat of their pets very lightly, it was plainly observable that the loss of the ground record (for it must not be forgotten that Cardiff had not been beaten at home previous to Saturday) was a source of keen disappointment to many.

Some carried their feelings altogether too far, and the Gloucester players had a very uncomfortable time of it on leaving the ground. Both Taylor and Luce were buffeted, whilst one or two other men were tripped.

As to the game itself, it was of a particularly keen nature – too keen altogether in the closing stages to be pleasant. The ground was in perfect condition for a fast, open exhibition, but though the ball was pretty frequently among the backs, there were very few combined passing bouts. The collaring on both sides was exceedingly close, and this, coupled with the fast following up of the forwards, made it extremely difficult for the three-quarters to get off.

With the exception of, perhaps, the first few minutes, Gloucester had a good deal the better of exchanges in the first half, and the City team should have crossed over with a bigger lead than nine points.

Gloucester ought to have scored easily when Thomas mulled a big kick from Clutterbuck, but the opportunity was not seized upon; whilst Luce could have put either Taylor or Clutterbuck in had he known they were in immediate attendance when he got clear to the Cardiff custodian after intercepting an opponent's pass.

Cardiff played up strongly in the second half, and but for the brilliant defence of the visitors would undoubtedly have come out on top. The try they obtained was the result of a good individual effort, but the scorer ought to have been stopped by Hipwood. The latter made the fatal mistake of throwing himself at his man, with the result that he got too low down to effectively check the Cardiffian's career.

Taking the play throughout Gloucester were the better team on the day's play, and thoroughly deserved their success. Forward (and here Cardiff were little worse off than Gloucester as regards players) the City played a fine game, every man working his hardest.

In the tight the Gloucester eight were quite as effective as their opponents, getting the ball smartly and heeling out cleanly. On other occasions they concentrated their efforts on the loose rushing game, and this style of play paid very well, the ball being taken half the length of the ground more than once.

The inability of the Cardiff backs to get their passing machinery into motion was owing, in a large measure, to the quick manner the City forwards broke up the scrums and their deadly tackling. All the players were conspicuous in this respect. Fred Click, Goulding, Rose, and Williams showed up well in the lines-out, and Watkins, when brought out of the scrum, did a lot of splendid saving under great difficulties.

For Cardiff, George Dobson, Abbott, and Emery worked tremendously hard, and in the last ten minutes the first two players had several bursts for the line. There were, however, always one or two Gloucester men handy, much to the chagrin of the Cardiffians, who did not relish the attention paid to them at all.

At half-back, Gloucester held a clear advantage, despite the fact that the referee was down on Cummings severely for off-side play. The Gloucesterian certainly did transgress once or twice, but he was often penalised without cause.

Individually, Stephens was the pick of the four, his play throughout being characterised by skill and judgement. He was well supported by Cummings, who took a lot of knocking about in a quiet manner.

Heaven and Halliday did not combine well at all, and often one or the other of the Gloucester halves dribbled the ball from under their noses.

The three-quarters on either side now and again handled the ball smartly, but there were a lot of mistakes made in taking and giving passes. Of the Gloucester quartett, George Clutterbuck was the pick of the line, and though his display was not faultless, he did a lot of grand work in the centre. The try he scored was the result of smart following up, and his dropped goal was an exceptionally fine effort from half way. He had the wind with him, certainly, but nevertheless it was a splendidly judged kick.

Luce made one or two good runs, and with Clutterbuck did not give the opposing centres many opportunities to distinguish themselves. The Old Cheltonian snapped up one or two passes very cleverly, and on one occasion he tried hard to elude Thomas, but it did not come off.

Taylor had a fairly busy afternoon, and he got in several sprints. On one occasion he raced in from the centre of the field, after a pretty bit of play, but he was called back for going into touch. The Gloucester touch judge (Mr. A. C. Chadborn) asserted that Taylor did not step over the mark, but on an appeal from the Cardiff players the referee overruled the touch-judge, much to the disappointment of the visitors.

Dovey did not get a fair chance to exercise his dodging abilities, but he kicked and tackled well. Ricketts was the best of the Cardiff three-quarters, and Bush displayed a nice turn of speed. Driscoll got smothered by the Gloucester forwards at the very start, and he did not shine to any extent. The passing of the line left a lot to be desired, and combination was at a discount.

T. J. Thomas did not exhibit anything like the form he showed at Kingsholm. He fumbled very badly at times, and more than once placed his side in serious danger. His kicking, however, was of good length, and well judged. Apart from the mistake of letting Bush in, Hipwood played a very sound game. He stopped the Cardiff forwards very daringly on two or three occasions, and threw Ricketts into touch when the latter looked a certain scorer.