

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1938

GLOUCESTER'S NOTABLE TRIUMPH

FIRST ENGLISH SIDE TO WIN AT LLANELLY THIS SEASON

ONLY TWO POINTS SEPARATE SIDES IN EXCITING GAME

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester achieved a notable performance to-day when they gained a surprise victory over Llanelly at Stradey Park, where few visiting teams bring away winning points. Two seasons ago the City triumphed by 5 points to 3 after a long series of defeats.

Gloucester had to make further changes in the three-quarter line. Hughes played centre in place of Phillips, and R. E. Burke of the United team came in on the wing.

In the forwards F. Mustoe took the vacant position caused by the transference of Hughes to the back division.

Llanelly also had to call on several reserves, absentees including Ifor Jones, F. L. Morgan (Internationals), Bryn Evans and F. T. Evans.

The weather was beautifully fine and the attendance was between three and four thousand.

Before the match the teams lined up in the centre of the field and observed a two-minutes' silence to the memory of Mr. Rowley Thomas, a prominent supporter of the club and member of the Welsh Rugby Union Selection Committee, who died suddenly on Thursday.

GLOUCESTER.

BACK : T. Stephens.

THREE-QUARTERS ; R. Burke, E. V. Manning, H. M. Hughes, and C. J. Dibden.

HALF-BACKS : D. Meadows and F. Gough.

FORWARDS : T. Price, A. Carpenter, C. Harris, J. G. A'Bear, R. Morris, F. Mustoe, E. Bayliss, and Dr. Dick.

LLANELLY.

BACK : G. Thomas.

THREE-QUARTERS : W. H. Clement, G. Treharne, I. Jones and E. L. Jones.

HALF-BACKS : D. L. Thomas and S. Pryor.

FORWARDS : W. H. Williams (capt.), D. J. Morgan, E. Evans, J. L. G. Morgan, P. Moxey, B. J. Bowen, G. Monger, and W. J. Jones.

THE GAME

Gloucester won the toss, and Llanelly kicked off with the sun in their faces. John A'Bear took the ball nicely, and with a strong burst and punt sent to Thomas, who was pulled down in his own 25. The City were penalised at the first scrum, and the kick found touch well inside the Gloucester half.

The visitors heeling from a scrum, there was a short bout of passing, ending in Manning kicking ahead of Thomas. The latter, however, was in position, and found a nice touch.

GLOUCESTER'S SURPRISE TRY

Immediately after this the Gloucester backs were set going again, and Manning, cutting through nicely, handed to Burke, who had backed up well.

The latter kicked to the line, where Thomas fumbled, and BURKE rushed up to score a good try.

Tom Stephens converted, and the City were five points up in quick time.

Llanelly restarted with sharp forward work and Pryor opened out. Elvet Jones was served on the right wing, but he was stopped before getting dangerous.

Gloucester cleared from their 25 with neat handling, and some well judged kicking by Meadows.

Good footwork, in which Hughes and Manning . . .

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. . . grand goal, giving Gloucester an eight points lead.

So far the City had clearly shown superiority, and well deserved the points.

Llanelly played up strongly after this reverse, but Gloucester's marking was exceptionally close. The home forwards again gave trouble with loose footwork, but were kept out of danger and Gloucester put in some good all-round work.

Just inside the Llanelly half Manning was fed by Meadows. He cut through brilliantly for 20 yards and then passed to A'BEAR who finished a fine movement by scoring near the posts. Stephens converted.

FAST FOOTBALL

Thirteen points up, Gloucester showed up strongly at the restart, the forwards being well together and tackling very closely.

Llanelly were prominent at times with good passing, and Treharne and Clement just failed to find an opening on the left.

Twice Gloucester were penalised, and Thomas had a shot for goal, but failed to find the right direction.

The football continued to be contested at a very fast pace, with Gloucester holding their own splendidly.

Meadows was invaluable with his relief kicking, and he nursed the forwards nicely. From a penalty in mid-field, Llanelly punted high and the ball was rushed to near the Gloucester posts, where a scrum was formed.

D. L. THOMAS was given possession by Pryor and with a sharp dart he beat the defence and scored a good try. Bowen failed at goal and the score was now 13–3 in Gloucester's favour.

Gloucester had the better of the exchanges at the resumption and attacked resolutely. Meadows just missed after short punting and Manning and Burke went close.

Useful kicking brought relief for the Welshmen and Gloucester being penalised at the centre, ELVET JONES landed a fine goal.

Play up to the interval favoured Gloucester, but there was no further score.

HALF-TIME :

Gloucester 3 goals (1p.)

Llanelly 1 penalty, 1 try

The game had furnished some fast and exciting football, with Gloucester showing surprisingly good form, especially behind the scrum. Manning was very strong in attack, and Burke shaped exceedingly well on the right wing. The forwards were splendid in the scrums, but Llanelly were the more dangerous in the loose.

Llanelly restarted in dashing style, and Gloucester were at once forced on the defensive. Exciting play followed close to the City line, the home side making strenuous efforts to cross.

Gloucester were penalised near the touch and Elvet Jones had a place for goal, but it was a poor effort, and Gloucester touched down.

Following the drop out Gloucester rushed to midfield, where some exciting passages between the forwards were seen. Llanelly tried desperately to find an opening but the visitors' covering was excellent.

The standard of play now deteriorated, although there were several bright interludes.

Clever tactics by Gough and Meadows led to a sharp attack by the City, but Clement stepped in to clear beautifully.

A charged-down kick of Stephens' fortunately went to touch with Llanelly pressing.

TWO POINTS SEPARATE TEAMS

Elvet Jones had another place for a penalty goal, but was wide. Manning, however, knocked on in fielding the ball, and a scrum followed on the Gloucester line.

Llanelly attacked strenuously, and the ball being driven over the goal-line Don Meadows picked up and tried to punt out but the kick was charged down, and BOWEN was presented with a gift try.

Elvet Jones landed a grand goal, and only two points now separated the teams.

So far this half play had greatly favoured Llanelly, and the Gloucester defence was subjected to severe pressure. The City held out, although their line had several narrow escapes.

Clement was nearly over once on the right after tricking several players smartly, and the home forwards were very dangerous.

Elvet Jones failed with another shot at a penalty goal, and after this Gloucester had more of the play. But the City were kept well inside their half and few attacks were possible.

Gloucester struggled valiantly in the last few minutes to retain their narrow lead, the whole team working grandly. Llanelly, in turn, made desperate efforts to snatch victory but their efforts were unrewarded, and the end came with Gloucester splendid winners of an exiting game.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER	3 goals (1p.) (13 pts.)
Llanelly	2 goals (1p.) 1 try (11 pts.)