

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13, 1926

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER BEATEN AT CARDIFF

CITY SCORE IN FIRST TWO MINUTES

VISITORS PUT UP A GREAT FIGHT

After being disorganised for two or three weeks, Cardiff fielded their strongest team of the season at home against Gloucester this afternoon, no fewer than nine International players being included in the selected side. Among these was Dr. Melbourne Thomas, formerly of St. Bart's Hospital, who was making his first appearance in the ranks of the Welsh Metropolitans.

Gloucester were again without the services of A. T. Voyce (with the England team at Dublin), but the City otherwise was at full strength.

In the first match between the Clubs at Kingsholm in October a drawn game of 8 points each was recorded. Gloucester led by 8–3 to ten minutes of the finish, when Delahay led up to a fine try by Davies, which was converted, and the scores equalised.

There were three late changes in the Cardiff team – T. Parry, outside half, for Davies; D. Thomas for Parry; and A. V. Harding for Johnson at three-quarter.

The conditions were ideal for an open game, the ground being firm, and there was little wind.

GLOUCESTER

BACK : S. Williams.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. C. Thompson, S. A. Brown, E. H. Hughes, and S. R. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS : T. Millington and R. Milliner.

FORWARDS : F. W. Ayliffe, M. Short, J. Hemmings, E. Triggs-Herbert, H. Roberts, G. McIlwaine, S. Duberley, and G. Foulkes.

CARDIFF.

BACK : B. O. Male.*

THREE-QUARTERS : A. V. Harding, R. A. Cornish,* D. Thomas, and Dr. Melbourne Thomas.*

HALF-BACKS : T. Parry and W. J. Delahay.*

FORWARDS : Idris Richards,* Cliff Williams,* S. Hinam,* T. Lewis,* J. Burns, K. P. J. Turnbull, E. Spillane, F. Lee.

* Internationals.

Referee : Mr. Richards (Pontymister).

THE GAME

Ayliffe kicked off before 10,000 spectators, and the opening provided something sensational, for Cardiff, trying passing, lost the ball, and but for a knock on Gloucester might have scored. A scrum followed, and Cardiff heeled, but Milliner pounced on Delahay, who lost the ball. MILLINER gathered, and with a sharp burst scored near the posts, for Millington to convert.

Five points up in two minutes! This was encouragement for the City, who got away on the restart, but a Cardiffian intercepted and punted ahead. The ball was followed up, but the visitors managed to save. Cardiff attacked later with a loose forward dribble, but Gloucester saved right on the line.

A well-judged kick by Millington brought relief, and this was followed with a nice bout of passing, which ended in Crowther being collared ten yards outside.

A serious mishap, however, resulted from this movement, Brown being tackled and injured so as to necessitate his leaving the field. Hemmings was brought out of the pack to wing three-quarter, Crowther going centre.

A man short, Gloucester played up with great vigour, and set up a hot attack. Thomas tried to run out from behind his line, but was pressed and forced to kick. His short punt put the ball in the hands of Roberts, who was pulled down a yard outside.

Cardiff were making numerous mistakes in handling, and the City continued to have the better of the play. Williams marked well in the face of keen opposition, but the Cardiff backs getting away, the visitors' end was reached. The Welshmen attacked hotly, but the defence was very fine. Brown now returned, and play was keenly contested in the Gloucester half. Here Gloucester were penalised for off-side, and with a great kick from 40 yards out MALE landed a goal.

Gloucester did splendidly on the resumption, but a promising opening was spoiled by a forward transfer from Hughes to Crowther. Then a magnificent burst by the City forwards took play right to the Cardiff goal, where Male made a lucky save. The Welshmen worked out of danger, but Hughes snapping up a loose pass ran to Male, but Hemmings failed to take. Milliner twice beat Delahay at the scrums, and smart work by the backs led to another sharp attack. Cardiff again saved luckily, Millington being nearly through with a clever effort.

Gloucester kept up the pressure for a time, but were eventually beaten off. Cardiff, however, were held, and the City, with grand forward work, gave Cardiff many anxious moments. The home backs eventually gained relief, and Cornish tried hard to clear after a strong run, but cross-kicked, and Gloucester saved through Williams.

A pretty run by Hughes gave the City the advantage again, but subsequent play was fairly even and very fast. The ball bouncing awkwardly lost Gloucester a possible chance, and through failure to pick up Crowther missed a good opening.

In stopping a dangerous Cardiff rush Williams was laid out, and had to retire. Millington went full back, Hughes going up to outside half. Gloucester cleared from a dangerous position, but CORNISH gathered in the open and, following up a high punt, again secured and scored wide out. Male failed to convert.

HALF-TIME :

CARDIFF 1 goal (p), 1 try

GLOUCESTER 1 goal

Gloucester were very unlucky in being a point down at the changeover, for they had done more attacking and experienced hard lines in missing three tries. When the game was restarted Thompson was at full back and Hemmings figured at wing three-quarter. Cardiff had the better of the exchanges at the outset, but the City forwards put in a grand struggle, and splendid footwork often brought them a lot of ground.

Thompson showed up with two fine clearances under pressure, and good kicks to touch further improve matters. Picking up in the loose, McIlwaine brought off a great run to the full-back, but was collared from behind, and his pass went astray. Gloucester worked hard to gain the lead, but the defence held out, and Cardiff in turn took up the running.

Knocking on in taking a high kick, Thompson gave Cardiff a position in the Gloucester 25. Here the Welshmen opened out, but the passing was too mechanical, and Millington, intercepting, punted to half-way. Play was hotly contested at mid-field until a Cardiff forward broke away and kicked over the line. Brown, however, raced back and easily got the touch.

Williams now returned, and the teams were level in strength again. The City forwards continued to play dashing football, and the Cardiff pack were well held.

Twice the home backs started passing, but the players kicked ahead at the finish and Millington marked in each case. Milliner now got the ball out and Crowther was sent away beautifully by Hughes, but a forward pass was given.

From the centre the Cardiff forwards broke away, and after some sharp loose work HINAM picked up and brushing past Williams scored in a favourable position. Male, however, failed to convert.

Play just now was very scrappy, and the slackness of the home team did not please the crowd. The backs had plenty of the ball just now, but the handling was erratic and one or two good chances were thrown away.

The Cardiff forwards then took matters into their own hands, and following some short passing HINAM was given possession and with a strong burst the International crossed with his second try. The place-kick again failed. Cardiff were now seven points ahead but their play did not deserve such a lead.

Gloucester resumed, but the City were at once pressed back into their 25. Cardiff were doing a lot of heeling just now, but the attack lacked finish, Melbourne Thomas being at fault twice on the left wing.

Gloucester put up a praiseworthy show in defence, but could not get much to do in aggressive work. Clever combination by the Cardiff backs looked promising for a score, but the attack failed at the critical moment.

Male missed a penalty from a good position, and after this Gloucester had a fair share of the play. Delahay was smothered by McIlwaine when trying to get away, and this allowed Gloucester to reach the centre. Well-judged kicking by Millington further improved matters, and the City kept play confined to their opponents' half. Penalties fell to either side which left matters fairly even.

In the last few minutes Cardiff tried hard to increase their lead, but without success. Right at the end Male had to run back to field a kick and was collared. Several Gloucester men were up, but in the scramble the ball went to touch.

RESULT :

CARDIFF 1 goal (p) 3 tries (12 points)
GLOUCESTER 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS

Cardiff's play did not warrant a seven points' victory, for the Welshmen played a scrappy game all through, the backs especially being very disappointing. On the run of the play Gloucester should have been on top in the first half, but the City could not get any luck.

Gloucester were beaten in heeling after the interval, but the visiting forwards played with splendid dash, and all did well. The footwork at times was excellent, and close following up and tackling were features of a good all-round display.

Milliner stood up well to Delahay, and by no means had the worst of the exchanges. Millington was soundness itself, and his clever work was invaluable to his side. The three-quarters did good work up to a point, but mistakes at critical moments spoiled some fine openings.

Williams fielded and kicked quite as well as Male, and had a good match despite his knock-out.

Cardiff's combination was often at fault behind. The men threw the ball about in erratic fashion, and there was too much tendency to kick ahead instead of running hard for the line.

Melbourne Thomas was a poor substitute for Johnson, but all the players were off colour.

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A

CITY SECONDS WIN A RUGGED GAME

TWO PLAYERS INJURED

Played at Kingsholm this afternoon, before a fair attendance.

Teams : –

Gloucester A : A. Townsend; L. Abbey, L. Franklin, A. Yearsley, and R. N. Loveridge; G. Thomas and S. Collins; A. Rea (capt.), H. Pitt, G. Shaw, A. Comley, R. Smart, R. Sturge, N. Fearis, and L. Bartlett.

Cardiff A : T. Lee; T. R. Brown, W. H. Bowcott, E. Corsi, and J. H. John; T. Driscoll and D. Herlihy; S. C. Craves, W. Palmer, M. Regan, R. North, Dr. Wilde, N. Jacobs, G. Miles, and J. Ryan.

Referee : Mr. E. Wilson (Coleford).

Rea kicked off for Gloucester, and nothing was gained in the opening minutes by either side in spite of good touch-kicking by John and Townsend. A penalty kick to the City in Cardiff's half brought an interchange of attempts to find touch, and from the last of these the home left wing started passing. Ground was made, and another handling movement on the right wing looked promising till the ball went into touch.

Afterwards the ball became loose, and some weak attempts by Bowcott and Corsi to pick up ended in Loveridge getting possession. He got across to the left wing and sent in Abbey for an easy try, which Comley failed to convert.

Cardiff were not long in the leeway, for as the result of a forward burst in which there were apparently several knocks on, Cravos scrambled over behind the posts for a try, which he converted.

So far the work at the base of the scrum had been very moderate on both sides, though Thomas twice found touch cleverly when hard pressed. Gloucester attacked desperately, but found Lee exceedingly steady in his defensive play.

Several scrums and lines-out near the Cardiff line produced a lot of excitement and little in the way of finished tactics. The Cardiff backs showed better understanding in the handling section until the City three's began to realise something was to be gained by adopting combined methods. Franklin and Abbey did much hard work. Repeated attacks were made on the Cardiff line, but these were not successful, mainly owing to Lee's strong and reliable work at full-back.

Half-time :

Cardiff A 1 goal (5 points)

Gloucester A 1 try (3 points)

Cardiff A showed up most promisingly on the resumption, and Townsend was twice called upon to get out of difficult situations. He kicked very reliably with his left foot, but the Cardiff attack could not be beaten off, and Driscoll dropped a goal from an easy position.

With a margin of six points against them Gloucester had a stiff task before them, and they were repeatedly in the Cardiff 25. Three penalty kicks were taken by Comley, one of which he successfully attempted to place.

Ultimately Shaw intercepted on the Cardiff left wing and ran over for a try, which Comley converted.

A Cardiff player was injured and had to leave the field; a piece of bad luck for the visitors in view of the renewed energy which Gloucester were putting into their play. On three occasions Gloucester were nearly in, and it was left to Thomas to spring a surprise. From well outside the Cardiff 25 he dropped a goal in brilliant fashion.

A great tackle by Loveridge spoilt Cardiff of the best opening they had had. Then a Gloucester player was carried off injured, and the referee had a busy time in keeping the players in hand.

Result :

Gloucester A 2 goals (1d) 1 try (12 pts.)

Cardiff A 2 goals (1d) (9 pts.)

REMARKS

One has seen better games between the rival Seconds. On the ability they showed this afternoon Cardiff's back division should have assured victory but they fell away towards the end against splendid marking and tackling and Gloucester took full advantage of the weakness thus displayed.

Townsend played well at full back being especially good with his left foot in kicking, but Lee, the visitors' full back, was the best player on view. Loveridge was almost starved as regarded passes though he rendered valuable aid on many occasions; his tackle of Palmer when the latter looked all over a scorer being one of the features of the game.

The injured players were Bowcott and Collins. Bowcott's forehead was covered with plaster though he appeared to be all right when seen after the match. Collins, who was badly kicked in the face, took some time to come round but recovered and was able to proceed home. Dr. Taylor rendered assistance in the dressing-room to the injured players.