

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1926

GLOUCESTER'S FIRST DEFEAT

A GREAT GAME AT CARDIFF

DELIGHTFULLY FAST AND OPEN PLAY

CITY'S SECOND HALF RECOVERY

Gloucester appeared at Cardiff Arms Park with a record of seven successive wins, and with a full side would have had a great chance of breaking their long run of defeats in Wales. Loveridge, Dr. Taylor, McIlwaine and Seabrook, however, were all unable to assist, and with the weakened ranks and playing under the new Welsh rules, the best the City could hope for was to make a close fight.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Thomas.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. R. Crowther, E. H. Hughes, Roy James, and R. Thompson.

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

FORWARDS : A. T. Voyce (capt.), M. Short, G. Foulkes, H. Roberts, E. Triggs-Herbert, A. J. Owner, G. R. Shaw, and J. Ferris.

[The Cardiff team, together with a block of text of unknown length at the beginning of the report is missing; having been removed from the original article].

... day was in capital condition, but the attendance at the start, which was punctual to time, did not exceed 7,000.

Cardiff kicked off and at once secured a penalty, Male finding touch in the City 25. From the line-out the Cardiff backs started passing, and John cross-kicked nicely, but the visitors saved close in.

Failure to gather a pass by Williams allowed Crowther to kick down to Male, who was penalised for not playing the ball. Good kicking by Cardiff carried play to the Gloucester line and more passing gave John a chance, but he kicked across again and nothing resulted. Clever play by Milliner and a dash by Thompson brought Gloucester to mid-field, where the forwards were engaged in some loose play. Gwyn Richards gathered neatly and after a burst through passed to Turnbull. The latter made headway and yielded to OULD, who, though tackled by Thomas on the line, got the ball down and scored a good try. Male failed at goal.

Gloucester re-started in strenuous style and successfully broke up an attack on the Cardiff right. The Welshmen worked back and a long kick put Gloucester on the defensive. Weak handling by Cardiff lost ground and the visitors cleared to mid-field. An exchange of kicking left matters even, Thomas and James doing good work for Gloucester.

Gathering a loose pass, Voyce dashed ahead and put in a short punt. Millington secured the ball on the bounce, and neat handling took Gloucester very close. Cardiff worked out of danger, but brilliant passing by the City saw Crowther race away, but Male brought off a great tackle.

The visitors, however, should have equalised in the next minute, but fumbled in trying to pick up. The Welshmen came right away after this with quick passing but the tackling was sound. Cardiff, however, kept up the attack and after more exchanges TURNBULL crossed wide out, Male again missing the goal points.

The game was exceptionally fast, but the Cardiff backs were getting far more of the ball, and handled at every opportunity. Some of it was very clever, but there were many mistakes.

A clever dribble by Millington gained some twenty yards, but Male picked up and initiated passing. Turnbull, however, was well tackled before he could secure an opening.

Gloucester were showing fairly good form, but they were being given a lot of running about to do. Thomas distinguished himself with a sound tackle of Williams when the wing man looked dangerous, and later cleared effectively under pressure twice in quick succession. Cardiff continued to be the attacking force, and Gloucester were kept very busy defending.

A break through by Gwyn Richards saw the ball sent out to John, who, giving an inside pass to TURNBULL, led to the old Cambridge Blue putting on Cardiff's third try. No goal resulted.

Resuming, the play was open and interesting. Milliner sent Millington away in promising fashion but the movement broke down. In the subsequent play Gloucester held their own for a time, but the Cardiff backs were always dangerous when in possession, and this was pretty frequent.

Male starting his backs, there was every promise of a score, but the final transfer went astray. The Welshmen attacked right up to the interval, but nothing further was scored.

HALF-TIME :

CARDIFF 3 tries
GLOUCESTER Nil

Cardiff were well-deserved leaders at the interval, and considering the persistency of the attacks, Gloucester were fortunate in being only nine points in arrears. The Welshmen were out to give the ball plenty of air, and under the new rule they had plenty of opportunity with the Gloucester forwards continually beaten for possession. Gloucester restarted in good style, and from a move by Voyce, James found touch ten yards from the Cardiff line.

The City, in a good position, worked hard for a score, and following a dash by Voyce, Thompson was only pushed to touch just outside. Working desperately, the City at last gained an opening, and SHORT, receiving a pass, went over with a try near the posts. Millington converted.

Encouraged by this success, the City forwards showed up strongly on the resumption, and Milliner also brought off a good burst. Misfielding, however, lost Gloucester ground, and the ball was dribbled right to the visitors' line, where a lucky save was made. James brought relief with a clever touch-finder, and hot forward play followed.

Millington and Thompson gained ground for the visitors, but the latter's punt ahead was captured by Male, who returned it with interest. The Gloucester forwards were better together now, and brought off some fine rushes. A dashing effort by Crowther transferred play to the home end, but a penalty for off-side lost it.

Gloucester tried to open up, but failed, and Dan Davies picking up served Turnbull. The centre yielded to John, but Thomas pushed his man to touch. An exciting line-out followed on the City goal line, but Cardiff could not get through. Turnbull and Male in turn had fruitless drops at goal, but a little later perfect combination between the Cardiff backs gave WILLIAMS a try on the far left. The goal kick was a failure.

The game so far this half had not been so open, but was keenly contested. After several failures to open out, Milliner and Millington with inter-passing secured a possible chance. Voyce was the next to receive, and Male missing the ball, James came along and gathered. He made a fine dash for the line, but was upset half a yard outside. James put the ball over the line subsequently, but a scrum was ordered five yards out. It was hard lines, for the effort deserved a score. Not discouraged, Gloucester kept up a warm attack, and clever work between Millington and VOYCE gave the captain a try behind the posts. Millington unaccountably missed the easy place kick, but Gloucester had got to within four points of their rivals, a worthy reward for some fine work.

The game was continued at a very fast pace, with the Gloucester forwards going great guns. The Cardiff pack, on the other hand, showed signs of fatigue, and were well beaten in the loose. The City went through finely to Male once, but the home player got back and effected a lucky clearance. Before the end GWYN RICHARDS added an unconverted try for Cardiff.

RESULT :

CARDIFF 5 tries (15 points)
GLOUCESTER 1 goal 1 try (8 points)

REMARKS

Gloucester went down fighting, and right at the end came very near adding to their score. The City's recovery in the second half was remarkable, and on the whole they had the better of the exchanges. The forwards especially improved 50 per cent., and for a time over-ran the opposition. The recruits, Ferris and Owner, did splendid work but the whole pack were well together.

It was outside the scrum where Cardiff held the advantage, and in effective combined work there was no real comparison. The City defence, however, held up splendidly, and Thomas at back saved repeatedly.

The game was full of interest throughout, and there is no question that the new rule lends itself to open play. Gloucester were troubled a lot at the outset in having no set tactics, but some clever moves were initiated in the second half, which with better finish might have brought more satisfactory results.

Poole and Richards had far more opportunity at half-back than Milliner and Millington, and they showed good understanding. At three-quarter Turnbull ran strongly, and Davies was elusive at times.

GLOUCESTER A v. TAFF'S WELL (Cardiff).

CITY SECONDS WIN WELL IN GOOD GAME

BRIGHT PASSING MOVEMENTS

Recruited from a district mid-way between Cardiff and Pontypridd, Taff's Well made a welcome first appearance at Kingsholm to meet Gloucester A. There were several hundred spectators, who saw the City Seconds make their debut at home this season.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER A : H. Boughton; A. Robins, A. J. German, J. Stephens, and W. Gough; L. Abbey and E. Goodwin; A. Rea (capt.), S. Spiers, E. Comley, L. Bartlett, H. Pitt, F. Sturge, L. Franklin and T. Hiam.

TAFF'S WELL : W. Mullins; T. Watkins, P. Rogers, T. Phillips, and H. Edwards; R. Helyar and T. Buffett; M. Davies (capt.), T. Wibley, T. Armstrong, P. Sadler, D. Llewellyn, J. R. Lewis, W. Thomas and R. Field.

Referee : Mr. G. L. Jones (Lydbrook).

Infringements by the visitors marked the start, with the result that the City got a footing in their opponents' 25. Gough was well served by Stephens and kicked over the goal line, forcing Mullins to concede a minor. Boughton made three capital kicks in quick succession to touch. Twice Goodwin set up passing after the ball had been heeled by the home forwards, but knocks-on stopped progress.

Following several efforts to make ground by passing, the City heeled smartly from a scrum near the Taff's Well line, and Goodwin served Abbey so quickly that the latter ran over and touched down without an effort being made to stop him.

Comley's first attempt to convert was wide, but on re-taking it owing to a false charge by an opposing forward Comley put the ball right over the bar and got the major points.

Stephens cut out a fine opening when play was on the home side of the half-way line, and he passed to Gough, who ran splendidly, sold the "dummy," and touched down for a well-earned try, which Comley failed to convert.

The combination between Abbey and Goodwin at the base of the scrum worked exceptionally satisfactorily and enabled Stephens to start off on a run in which he swerved past the opposition and got a fine try. Comley's effort to convert was close, but unsuccessful.

Robins and German next collaborated in a smart effort on the home right wing, which ended in Robins getting a try in the corner. Boughton converted with a magnificent kick from the touch-line.

HALF-TIME :

Gloucester A 2 goals 2 tries
Taff's Well Nil

Taff's Well had not once got over the home team's 25-line in the first half – sufficient testimony to the all-round superiority of the City Seconds. The visitors, however, were not overplayed.

Boughton contributed the first feature of the second half by a clever catch when facing his own line and a kick which found touch at the half-way line. Gough missed a good opening when he elected to cross-kick instead of going for the line. A visiting forward had to retire for a few minutes owing to injury, and just as he returned one of his colleagues was also injured, but soon resumed.

Good footwork by Taff's Well gave Edwards a chance, but he preferred to kick instead of dashing ahead, and Boughton touched down on the only occasion so far that the visitors had got near the home line.

With the visitors showing great keenness in marking, the Gloucester attacks were not allowed to develop so smoothly. A burst by the home forwards enabled Franklin to get possession and go over for a try wide out, which Boughton narrowly missed converting.

Stephens threw off an opponent's tackle and beat the opposition completely to score another try, which Boughton converted.

Result :

Gloucester A 3 goals 3 tries (24 pts.)
Taff's Well Nil

REMARKS

With their advantages in weight and physique Gloucester A also contributed a superiority in tactics which proved too big an obstacle for the visitors. The latter were not outplayed, and pluckily stuck to a thankless task, even although they were beaten in every department except keenness.

Boughton made his first appearance in the colours of the Gloucester Club, and granted average good luck and the maintenance of the cool demeanour he exhibited in this match, his association with the premier club should be productive all round. His defensive work and touch-finding were capital.

Stephens used his head with great advantage and developed unorthodox tactics to the great benefit of the City Seconds. The winners were well served all round.