

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1926

## FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER FAIL AT SWANSEA

WELSHMEN HANDSOME WINNERS BY 16 POINTS

CITY BACKS LACK COMBINATION

For their annual match at St. Helen's, Gloucester were able to field a strong side despite the absence of Voyce, who was prevented from playing owing to a damaged shoulder sustained on Thursday. Hughes mistook the time of the train, and the three-quarter line was the same which opposed Oxford. Swansea, owing to illness and injuries to players, have not done particularly well of late, and suffered defeat at Cardiff last Saturday and to Neath at home on Thursday.

Teams : —

### GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Thomas.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. N. Loveridge (capt.), Roy James, J. Stephens, and R. C. Thompson.

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

FORWARDS : M. Short, J. Hemming, E. Triggs-Herbert, G. Foulkes, A. J. Owner, G. R. Shaw, E. Comley, and L. Bartlett.

### SWANSEA

BACK : D. Hopkins.

THREE-QUARTERS : Evan Hopkins, R. Jones, A. Perkins, and Rhys Evans.

HALF-BACKS : Ivor Matthews and W. J. Trew.

FORWARDS : J. John, D. Parker, T. Hopkins, Jenkins, W. Faull, E. Long, T. Mabbett, and D. Roach.

Referee : Capt. Burge (Penarth)

## THE GAME

Fine weather prevailed when Short kicked off before 2,000. Gloucester at once got into the Swansea 25, where R. Jones relieved with a capital kick. Swansea got the ball from the first scrum, only for R. Jones to pass badly when his wing was well placed. The ball soon became slippery, and passes so far on both sides were easily dropped. Milliner enabled Millington to start passing, which was taken to the right wing, where James gave a bad transfer to Loveridge. Off-side against Hemming at the scrum inside the Gloucester half gave D. Hopkins a chance of kicking a penalty, but his shot went wide.

J. Stephens was next tackled in possession, and R. Jones taking the ball from him, fed his right wing. E. HOPKINS beat Thomas on the line and went over for a try, which Parker nearly converted, the ball hitting the post and rebounding.

Gloucester seemed to be taken by surprise when this score was made, and the manœuvre was nearly repeated by the Swansea right wing. The home team were giving the ball plenty of air, although much of their passing was reckless. Gloucester were awarded a free for feet up in the scrum by Swansea, and much ground was made from the kick.

For some time play was contested on the home 25, till an attack developed on the City's right wing. James and Loveridge got nearly to the goal line, where D. Hopkins stopped them. Milliner and Ivor Matthews had a keen duel, in which the home half-back had more assistance at the scrum owing to the quick heeling of his forwards. Swansea pushed the visitors back to mid-field, when off-side spoiled a likely looking thrust. Up to this period play was very ragged, and most excitement came from the dashes by the Swansea right wing.

Thomas stopped E. Hopkins cleverly, and on the ball becoming loose a Gloucester player got off-side in his own 25. D. HOPKINS kicked a nice penalty goal. The home forwards had shown more activity on the heavy ground, and did well in the loose.

Swansea kept up an insistent pressure, and got further ahead. From a scrum near the Gloucester line the home threes started passing, and PERKINS got a transfer in front of the posts and although hard pressed he smartly dropped a goal. Swansea were rather flattered by a ten points' lead, their general superiority not being as marked as the score indicated.

Gloucester were facing brilliant sunshine, which made matters more difficult for them. Millington had an unsuccessful attempt at a penalty kick from long range, but this put the home team on the defensive.

Millington found touch near the corner with a fine kick, and for five minutes Swansea had the greatest difficulty in keeping the visitors out. Thompson just missed awkwardly a rolling ball on the goal line.

HALF-TIME :

SWANSEA ..... 2 goals (1d 1p) 1 try  
GLOUCESTER ..... Nil

Although Swansea had a reorganised team they had worked together better than Gloucester, who could not develop any serious attack behind the scrum. The home pack's heeling was superior, and enabled their backs to initiate movements which failed as often owing to wild passing as to effective passing.

On the restart Thomas cleared with a fine kick to touch. Following a scrum Gloucester were penalised, but D. Hopkins made a weak effort to kick a penalty from just inside the half-way line.

Gloucester were soon on the defensive again. Loveridge had been pushed into touch after the ball had been passed along the Gloucester back division, and from a line-out the home forwards dribbled into the City's half, where Perkins and R. EVANS continued so effectively that the winger had a clear run in for a try which he did not miss. Parker's effort to convert went wide.

The City did not lie down by any means to this reverse, and they carried play to the home goal line, where Millington was tackled just in time.

From a scrum on the Swansea line Matthews and Milliner had a battle for possession, and another scrum on the same spot was given. The home team succeeded in temporarily easing matters, only to see Gloucester attacking hotly. Stephens tried a drop at goal, but the direction was bad. Although their play still lacked combination, Gloucester kept the home team well penned in their 25, and they got well-deserved points when JAMES touched down for a try after good work by Hemming and himself. Millington failed to convert.

Play became keener than ever, and capital touch-kicking by Perkins sent Gloucester to their own goal-line. After some exchanges Swansea were operating in midfield, when a passing movement started on the right wing. Evan Hopkins and R. Jones ran straight, passing and re-passing cleverly for thirty yards, the movement ending in their beating all opposition for JONES to touch down. This was a magnificent try, and well earned the great cheer which went up. Hopkins failed to convert.

With their winning lead Swansea eased up, and Gloucester took up the offensive, Loveridge making much ground by short kicks to touch. At the scrum, however, Swansea were still superior, and they got the ball away quickly. Matthews was fortunate on occasions to find the bounce of the ball favouring him, but he neglected no opportunity of setting his backs going.

Swansea played a very open game which seemed to non-plus the Gloucester backs when the latter were on the defensive. A series of lines-out at midfield were followed by Gloucester once more taking up the attack. James had a clever kick to touch, which put Swansea back to their own 25. Matthews was very nimble at the base of the scrum, and got his side out of difficulties by some tricky work.

Off-side against Swansea saw Millington again fail with a penalty kick. E. Hopkins got possession on the home 25 and ran to mid-way and passed to D. HOPKINS, who outpaced the City defence to score a grand try. Faull failed to convert from an easy position.

RESULT :

SWANSEA ... 2 goals (1d, 1p) 4 tries (19 points)  
GLOUCESTER .....1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

There could be no doubt about the merit of Swansea's victory. At the scrum and behind they worked as one man, especially in the second half, when the Swansea backs got in some fine passing. The home team, too, seemed to be faster on the heavy ground than Gloucester, whose threes did not carry out more than half a dozen handling movements throughout the game.

The City forwards held their own in the loose, but were inclined to kick too far ahead. The home backs positioned themselves cleverly to carry out their attacks, and frequently beat their opponents by this strategy. It was not Gloucester's day by any means.

GLOUCESTER A v. YORKLEY

VISITORS BEATEN BUT THE BETTER TEAM

AN EXTRAORDINARY RESULT

There was a fair crowd present when Yorkley kicked off against Gloucester A at Kingsholm immediately following the match between Gloucester Ex-Scholars and the R.A.F. School. Crowther and Hughes, who missed the train to Swansea, were together on the Gloucester left wing.

Play in the opening stages went in favour of Yorkley, who showed themselves a nicely balanced combination. Several good bouts of passing were brought off by the backs, and once A. Jones, the left centre, broke away in great style from mid-field. The forwards were also very quick on the ball and on the man.

Rain began to fall and the light became bad half-way through, and for a period play was correspondingly dull. There was a lot of scrumming and a lot of scrum infringements. Finally the Yorkley pack heeled too quickly for the scrum half (H. Fletcher); the Gloucester forwards broke away and Franklin touched down near the post for a try which he himself converted.

Abbey, the City outside half, opened out nicely, when Yorkley were pressing, and the ball went right across the line to Robins, who fell to an excellent tackle by Powell, the Yorkley left wing. Yorkley continued to have the better of matters, and A. Jones was brought down within a yard or two of the line after a combined run. The visitors' efforts were rewarded just on half-time, when S. Price, the full-back, converted a penalty kick from 30 yards out.

Half-time :

Gloucester A .....	1 goal
Yorkley .....	1 goal (p)

Yorkley were unlucky to be in arrears when the game was restarted. Not only had they done the bulk of the pressing, but they had also shown the better form all round. Their backs were again the first to get on the move in the second half, and for the first quarter of an hour play was confined to the City half.

On one occasion C. James, the Yorkley outside half, nearly got through with a determined burst. Crowther relieved with a run which roused the enthusiasm of the crowd, but S. Price fielded his kick and his touch-finder left play where it was on the Gloucester line. Here there were some very hot exchanges, and only desperate tackling kept the visitors out.

At length Saxby led a breakaway by the Gloucester forwards, and play was transferred to the Yorkley half for the first time. Gloucester were awarded a couple of free-kicks, but each time the Yorkley backs were able to find touch at half-way.

Five minutes from time Crowther broke away on the left, and beating all opposition by his speed and swerve scored behind the posts for Franklin to convert. Immediately afterwards he got away again, but the ball went over the dead ball line.

Result :

Gloucester A ..... 2 goals (10 points)

Yorkley ..... 1 goal (p) (3 points)

#### REMARKS

It was an extraordinary result. Gloucester A were very disappointing. The backs did not once get going, and the forwards were beaten both in the tight and in the loose. Yorkley attacked for practically all the time, and were the better side all round. They showed good combination outside the scrum on occasions and the forwards were fast and rare workers. A certain lack of finish, stern defensive work (mostly by the City forwards) and luck were the causes of their failure to win.

JC