

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1927

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER LOSE AT ABERAVON

A KEEN STRUGGLE

CITY'S SPLENDID DEFENCE

Gloucester paid their first visit to Aberavon to-day, but the side was weakened owing to the absence of Loveridge, Thompson, James, J. Stephens, and Seabrook.

A. Hough, of the Old Boys, was given his first trial at wing three-quarter, L. Abbey retaining his place at centre. G. Thomas made his re-appearance at full-back for the first time since Christmas.

Aberavon had met Gloucester three times at Kingsholm, winning on each occasion. In October last the Welshman triumphed by 13 points to 6, and clearly established their superiority.

Teams :

GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Thomas.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. R. Crowther, E. H. Hughes, L. Abbey, and A. Hough.

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

FORWARDS : A. T. Voyce (capt.), L. E. Saxby, M. Short, G. Foulkes, H. Pitt, J. Hemming, A. Rea, and L. Bartlett.

ABERAVON

BACK : D. Walters.

THREE-QUARTERS : C. Griffiths, H. Hayes, W. C. Thomas and H. J. Anderson.

HALF-BACKS : G. Davies and T. Harris.

FORWARDS : J. Sullivan, Ivor Morris, E. Jenkins, D. James, Rev. H. Jones, H. Davies, W. Owen, and N. Harris.

Referee : Mr. E. Cornfield (Glyn Neath).

THE GAME

The crowd numbered 2,000. Aberavon kicked off, Thomas fielding cleverly and returning to Walters, who found touch in Gloucester's half. The visitors replied through Milliner finding touch near the home 25. Here G. Davies got the ball in the loose and ran through to Thomas, who forced his opponent to pass wildly, a good chance being lost.

Good play on the Gloucester wing led to Millington sending Crowther away. The winger ran well and transferred to Voyce, who, on being tackled, passed to the referee in mistake. The referee was wearing a light-coloured sweater, and he went off to cover it with a dark coloured jacket.

Millington wormed his way through a crowd of players to serve Milliner, who passed to Hemming, the latter being forced into touch. After defending for a few minutes Aberavon got off through Anderson, who ran 30 yards before being overtaken by Hough and cleverly pulled down. The home forwards were doing well in the loose, but fared none too well in the scrum, two penalties being quickly awarded against them in Gloucester territory.

Aberavon continued to press, and Griffiths had the ball at his feet when faced by Thomas. The Gloucester full-back picked up cleverly and cleared with a long kick to touch. The home fifteen were doing strong work on their right wing, who made several attacks.

They were beaten off, and the City got to half-way. Bartlett was prominent in a loose rush in which he fell and injured his shoulder. He had to leave the field.

Aberavon looked dangerous from a scrum near the visitors' 25, G. Davies eluding Millington and punting forward. Thomas saved the situation by claiming a mark. Haynes next kicked over the dead-ball line.

Harris was very clever in the open, and only accurate marking by the Gloucester three-quarter kept him from crossing on two occasions. Gloucester had to concede a minor after W. C. Thomas had forced an attack.

There was some desperate play near the Gloucester posts, and the visitors looked like getting relief when they were awarded a penalty. Thomas took the kick and got the ball well away, but HARRIS fielded cleverly and unexpectedly dropped a grand goal.

From the re-start the Gloucester forwards indulged in a characteristic burst in which Saxby and Foulkes were prominent. The ball ultimately went to Hough, who was forced into touch. Walters had a magnificent kick to touch which put Aberavon on the offensive. Their three-quarters passed well after a scrum, but Anderson was slow in getting off the mark and Crowther pulled him into touch. Bartlett now returned.

Millington was conspicuous in backing up, and this enabled him to charge down a kick by Harris. Millington dribbled the ball up the field and succeeded in picking it up. He passed to VOYCE, who ran fifteen yards and got over the line with two opponents hanging on him. It looked as if the Gloucester captain might lose the ball, but on being tackled he managed to touch down for a well-earned try. Millington just failed to convert.

Crowther missed with a drop at goal when well placed for passing.

Good relief work by Thomas stopped two strong bursts by the home forwards, who were not slow to open up attacks by long passes. These tactics kept the Gloucester defence pretty well on the move and necessitated accurate marking, which was forthcoming.

There was a long stoppage owing to an injury to Harris, who was able to resume. Hayes threw away a golden opening when he threw a wild pass to Griffiths almost on the Gloucester line. This was the prelude to a desperate attack by the home team and the City had to concede another minor. In the next few minutes there were eight scrums almost on the Gloucester line, and the visitors did well to prevent a further score.

HALF-TIME :

ABERAVON 1 goal (d)

GLOUCESTER 1 try

Considering the pressure that Aberavon had put on in the last ten minutes of the first half Gloucester might count themselves a little fortunate to be only a point behind at the interval. Still they were to be complimented on the sturdy defence put up.

Gloucester were soon attacking after the resumption. Abbey served Hough cleverly, but the winger hesitated instead of running on. Jones got in a splendid touch kick from the Aberavon goal line to half way, but Thomas replied with an equally good relief kick.

The next incident was provided by Voyce and Short. They got possession in the Aberavon half and passed nicely until Voyce allowed the ball to slip when Short had a clear opening.

Forward play continued to be extremely keen on both sides, and following another raid by the Gloucester eight Crowther forced Walters to kick the ball dead. Play was quickly transferred, and Hayes, favoured by the bounce of the ball, started a good run. He hung on to the ball, however, instead of passing, and Hughes pulled him down.

Voyce, who had proved in rare fettle with his dashes, took the ball to mid-field, and was then penalised for off-side in the scrum.

Hughes received a knee injury after effecting a good clearance, and was carried off the field. Saxby came out of the pack to partner Crowther.

Aberavon made great efforts after this, and following desperate work on the right wing N. HARRIS got over for a try which W. C. Thomas failed to convert.

The home fifteen next made ground on their left wing until Hough brought off a splendid tackle, Anderson being brought down when he was favourably placed.

The tackling on both sides was of the keenest description, and play ruled fast. Hughes returned after ten minutes' absence, but was limping badly and again retired. DAI JONES scored an unconverted try for Aberavon before the end.

RESULT :

ABERAVON 1 goal (d) 2 tries (10 pts.)

GLOUCESTER 1 try (3 pts.)

REMARKS

This was said by the Aberavon officials to be the hardest game their team had had at home this season. They deserved their victory because of the better combination of their backs; but Gloucester put up a great show, and with some luck would have been on level terms.

Saxby, Short, Voyce and Foulkes were conspicuous in the City pack, while Milliner did a lot of good work.

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF SCOTTISH

CITY SECONDS PILE ON POINTS IN SECOND HALF

Gloucester A had the assistance of R. James and R. C. Thompson who were unable to go to Aberavon with the firsts, for their match against Cardiff Scottish at Kingsholm, following the ex-Scholars' game. L. Townsend was unavailable for either side owing to an injury received against Cardiff last week.

The visitors played a bustling, lively game and the opening play was even and exciting. Holford followed up in dashing style, and though just failing to pull down the full-back impeded him and put Gloucester on the attack. Boughton failed with a penalty, and then Russell secured the touch rather easily after a clever breakaway by Goodwin, Gloucester's scrum half.

James, who, like Scott, the Cardiff Scottish full-back had shone with clever kicking, came into the picture with a smart run and a good effort to drop a goal from a penalty, which missed by inches. The Scottish backs took play to the other end with a passing run, but they were not fast enough to break through. Lewis cleverly retrieved a pass to Holford that went astray, and led an attack on the visitors' line so that half-time came with Gloucester in Cardiff Scottish territory.

Half-time :

Gloucester A	1 goal
Cardiff Scottish	Nil

A good penalty kick by James put Gloucester A further ahead soon after the resumption, but the ensuing play was crude and unscientific for the most part. Mistakes were made by both sides, and Gloucester A failed with a number of opportunities, though Goodwin, Stephens, Lewis and James all did smart work on occasion individually. The ball was [word unreadable] across in the Gloucester A attack and Holford was given a clear run in. Boughton's kick failed, and Gloucester A led by 11 points to nil.

Lewis made an opening for his wing just afterwards, but Holford was brought down, and when James and Thompson broke away with the best passing run of the day on the opposite side, the centre was recalled and a scrum ordered. Gloucester A were now having all the better of matters, however, and they scored again near the posts, Boughton converting. Before the end Comley and Ferris added further tries both of which James converted.

Result :

Gloucester A 5 goals (1p), 1 try (26 pts.)
Cardiff Scottish Nil