

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1951

CLEVER WELSHMEN OUTPLAYED GLOUCESTER

Gloucester failed to lay low their Cardiff “bogey” yesterday evening and were soundly beaten at the famous Arms Park ground by three goals, a penalty goal and two tries (24 pts.) to one penalty goal (3 pts.).

The game was watched by 8,000 people.

For the second time within a week the city club came up against a back division which was just too strong for them and though they fought gallantly their defence was gradually worn down.

Cardiff were without their regular centres, Jack Matthews and Bleddyn Williams, who are both on the injured list – but had six internationals in the field, including the Irish forward, D. J. O’Brien.

Although considerably below full strength, Gloucester held their own for most of the first half. Then two quick scores put them eight points behind at the interval, and after that Cardiff never looked back.

Much of the credit for the Welsh team’s victory went to their international half-backs, Rex Willis and Cliff Morgan. They quickly established an excellent understanding and, with Willis sending out long, accurate passes, Morgan tore the Gloucester defence wide open on more than one occasion.

CLEVER THREES

Left-centre Alun Thomas and left wing Haydn Morris were the most dangerous members of a clever, fast-running Cardiff three-quarter line, which was quick to take advantage of opportunities provided by the halves.

Some of Cardiff's scoring movements began in the Welsh team's own territory.

But, although Gloucester were outclassed behind the scrum, their lion-hearted forwards never gave up the struggle.

They put up yet another great performance in the loose, and more than held their own with the Cardiff pack in this department of the game.

Jack Watkins, Peter Ford and Henry Wells were the most prominent members of Gloucester's pack, though all the forwards pulled their weight.

In the earlier part of the game Gloucester contrived to get quite a good share of the ball from the set scrums. Later on, however, Cardiff gained the upper hand in both scrums and lines-out.

Whenever they could, Gloucester's guest scrum-half, George Bird – a former Lydney and Stroud player – and outside-half Bill Cartmell made great efforts to get their threequarters going, though Cartmell's weakness of throwing rather wild passes was again noticeable at times.

Compared with the Cardiff back division, the Gloucester three-quarter line was singularly ineffective in attack and the wing men were given practically no real opportunities.

In defence, however, the Gloucester threequarters showed up well. Many of Cardiff's high-speed onslaughts broke down in the face of deadly tackling, Roy Sutton's marking being particularly good.

Although Gloucester were without full-back Bill Hook, who is suffering from the effects of a kick on the leg, Trevor Halls gave a very sound display. He fielded the ball well and steadily increased his length of touch-finding as he gained confidence.

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Cardiff opened their scoring after nearly half-an-hour's play, when Morris deceived Taylor, who thought he was going to change direction, and then ran round the Gloucester winger by sheer speed. Tamplin converted from near the touchline, and shortly afterwards a beautiful run by Morgan sent Thomas over for another try.

Earl in the second half Nelson increased Cardiff's lead with a try which Tamplin converted, but Halls replied with a 35-yard penalty goal for Gloucester.

Further tries were gained for Cardiff by Evans and Morris – the latter scoring after a spectacular 50 yards dash down the wing. Tamplin converted Evans' try and kicked a penalty just before time.

Brilliant, thrustful play behind the scrum gave Cardiff their victory. Gloucester's forwards earned a pat on the back for another fine performance in the loose.

CARDIFF: F. Trott; H. Morris, A. Thomas, D. James, M. Evans; C. Morgan, R. Willis; C. Davies, G. Beckingham, A. Hull, W. E. Tamplin, S. Judd, C. D. Williams, D. J. O'Brien, J. D. Nelson.

GLOUCESTER: T. Halls; R. Beamish, D. Hill, R. Sutton, J. Taylor; W. B. Cartmell, G. Bird; R. Parry, B. Lane, F. Daniels, J. Watkins (capt.), H. G. Wells, P. Ford, G. Hudson, D. Ibbotson.