

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1914

FOOTBALL

CARDIFF v. GLOUCESTER

CARDIFF'S LUCKY WIN

At Cardiff on Saturday Gloucester, having a good deal the better of the play, suffered defeat by the narrow margin of one try to nil. The feature of the game was the magnificent display of the City forwards.

The "Western Mail" says : – Cardiff were lucky to win. They were beaten in all departments except at full-back and wing three-quarter, but fortune favoured them. On the Gloucester side Cook was a great defender at full-back, and Hamblin at left centre was the man who came most into the picture in the three-quarter line. Baker and Hall played well together at half-back, and the latter took a lot of stopping when once in his stride. The Gloucester forwards were all good, every man being a trier to the very end.

"Old Stager" ("South Wales Daily News") remarks : – The visitors were the better balanced side, they were the better built men, and they played more intelligent rugby. Their forwards used their feet throughout with greater effect. Smart, Lawson, and Halford were the leaders among the visitors. At half, though not on the top of his form, Hall was the best of the four. Baker worked the scrummages, but was too prone to run into the ruck.

How Gloucester failed to score (remarks R. T. Gabe in the "Athletic News") is difficult to say upon reflection. Their forwards were clearly superior in all departments, and the backs showed a splendid conception of the "scoring" game. It was therefore, under the circumstances, a cruel blow for them to see Cardiff scoring a snap try and win the game.

Smart, Parham, and Halford were the best of a splendid eight. The former was ever conspicuous at the head of the rushes, and in the tight mauls. Baker and Hall were given plenty of opportunities, and they rarely failed to take advantage of them. Hamblin was the best of the three-quarters, and he had the most to do. Sysum shaped well, while Hudson, barring his one fateful error of omission, was as difficult to tackle as ever.

But the one that impressed me most, although he had comparatively little to do, was Webb, on the right flank. The way he got out of difficulties stamped him as a very promising player. I shall be surprised if he does not get into higher class football.

The last line of defence was well filled by Cook, who went down to the ball pluckily, and also kicked a useful length.

It is a long time since such a finely-balanced pack of forwards as the City has been seen on the Cardiff Arms Park. Halford – as good a forward as ever he was – and Smart were really magnificent. Smart is a forward beloved of the old school of Rugby. Ever in the thick of it, he also disciplined many of the fine rushes of the visiting "ups."

The game proved that J. L. Williams, the old Welsh International left-winger, is far from a "spent" force yet, and the same can be said of Hudson, the old English International. But most promise of all was that shown by F. Webb on the right wing. He is a player who uses his head, and will be heard of before many seasons are past.

Much was expected from Baker and Hall at half, and the latter was easily the best half on the field. The most pleasing aspect about Hall's play on Saturday was the clean and quick way he picked the ball up, whilst he uses the acme of judgment in giving his passes. – "Sporting Life."

RESULT :

Cardiff 1 try (3 points)
Gloucester Nil

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A

RESULT :

Gloucester A 1 goal (5 points)
Cardiff A Nil

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