

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 1920

RUGBY REFLECTIONS

FROM W.B.'S NOTEBOOK

There was joy in the Gloucester camp over the defeat of Swansea on Saturday – the fourth Welsh team to lower their colours to the City at Kingsholm this season.

Victories had previously been obtained over Cardiff, Pontypool, and Abertillery; losses were sustained to Newport and Llanelli; whilst the match with Cross Keys was drawn. Not a bad record, but it might have been better had the City played with the same confidence and determination as against the All Whites.

Gloucester won clearly on their merits last week; they held the powerful Swansea pack splendidly, and behind the scrum the City were responsible for all the bright movements witnessed during the game.

Over a long period, I do not recall the All Whites ignoring their backs to the extent they did on Saturday. The result was a very disappointing display from a spectator's point of view. Yet the play was so keen and vigorous forward that I warrant the home team would be prepared to admit it was one of the hardest struggles of the season.

What Swansea would have done with Joe Rees at full back and their regular half backs is a matter of conjecture. Certainly Grey was a poor substitute for the brilliant Welsh International custodian. It was due to a fatal error on Grey's part that gave Gloucester the winning try. Millington, who was credited with the score, showed himself a splendid opportunist. But he did several other smart things during the match, and altogether played a very useful game.

Both Fred Webb and Brown distinguished themselves in the City three-quarter line, and with a bit of luck a couple of tries at least might have accrued from the former's dashing efforts. I hoped to see Webb giving the Yorkshiremen a sample of his scoring ability this afternoon. Dix found A. Hall a useful partner at half-back; the latter's tackling and saving and short bursts were always a source of trouble to the Swansea men.

Gloucester endeavoured to obtain an extra fixture with Guy's Hospital for April 24th at Kingsholm, but the Londoners finish the season to-day, and could not accept the invitation.

Gloucester and Newport have agreed to reverse the dates of the matches arranged for next season. Newport will visit Kingsholm on January 20th, and Gloucester will play the return at Newport on March 26th.

JC