

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1932

GLOUCESTER 3 Pts., CARDIFF Nil

WINNING POINTS IN FIRST MINUTE

STRENUOUS STRUGGLE FORWARD

CITY'S FIRST VICTORY OVER WELSH TEAM THIS SEASON

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Gloucester had to field short of Tanner, McCanlis and Hemming for the return fixture with Cardiff at Kingsholm this afternoon. In the match at Cardiff in October the Welshmen won by 17 points to 3.

The City Club endeavoured to secure the services of V. Sheppard at three-quarter, but the former Birmingham University captain is on the injured list, and was not available.

A request to Lydney for the loan of W. Thomas was sportingly acceded to, and he played on the wing, Parker going centre.

Despite the wintry weather of the past few days, the Kingsholm ground was in good condition, the pitch in front of the grand stand having been covered against the frost.

Cardiff brought a strong side, including Turnbull, Graham-Jones, Bowcott, Skym and Lewis, Welsh Internationals. Howard Poole, captain, returned to the team at scrum half in place of Maurice Turnbull, on the disabled list.

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : W. Thomas (Lydney), G. W. Parker, J. C. Brooks, and A. E. Brookes.

HALF-BACKS : F. Fifield and A. R. James.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby (capt.), A. Carpenter, E. Comley, F. Wadley, L. Franklin, A. Welshman, K. Smith, and Dr. R. N. Williams.

CARDIFF

BACK : T. Stone.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. T. Thomas, B. R. Turnbull, Graham Jones, and Cyril Cross.

HALF-BACKS : H. Poole and H. M. Bowcott.

FORWARDS : A. Skym, T. Lewis, G. Ross, T. Dadd, Lewis Rees, L. Spencer, G. Babbage, and A. Clark.

REFEREE : Mr. R. L. Scorer (North Midlands)

THE GAME

PENALTY GOAL IN FIRST MINUTE

The weather was misty, when Boughton started for Gloucester before about 5,000 spectators. Stone knocked on in fielding, and a scrum was formed twelve yards from the Cardiff line. The Welshmen were penalised for off-side and from a favourable position BOUGHTON kicked a fine goal in the first minute. The good start put the home followers on good terms with themselves.

Cardiff restarted, but Franklin opening out in the loose the Gloucester backs made headway through Brooks and Parker. Centre play followed until there was a long kick down on the Gloucester left. Thomas fumbled, and Brookes being well up took the ball over the line, just failing to gain the touch for a try in the corner.

ANOTHER FINE SHOT JUST FAILS

Gloucester had the better of the exchanges on the drop-out, Boughton kicking well. From another penalty the City custodian had another shot for goal from halfway, the ball dropping only a yard short – a fine effort. The City backs showed up with some neat work, Parker shining, and Cardiff were confined to their half. A bad pass spoiled a movement initiated from the scrum, but later James screwed to touch finely with his left foot.

Loose forward work by Cardiff made 20 yards, Williams saving when matters looked dangerous. More well-judged kicking by Parker gave Gloucester territorial advantage, but Cardiff relieved with a bout of passing and a touch-finder by Bowkett.

FAST FOOTBALL

Playing well together, the City got on the attack, W. Thomas following up a kick by Brooks and forcing Cross to touch. A minute later there was a possible opening on the right, but a pass inside went forward with the forwards well up.

Cardiff were heeling well, and there was a series of exchanges, ending in Turnbull punting ahead. Boughton and Brookes, however, cleared between them. Play was fast forward, the Welshmen being very quick.

For a scrum infringement the City were penalised, Bowcott making a fine attempt to drop a goal. Boughton received the ball under the cross-bar, and passing to James, the latter sent well out to touch.

CARDIFF'S LUCKY ESCAPE

Gloucester were showing good form in all departments and the tackling was excellent. Franklin led a sharp dribble which tested Stone, but the visitors came away with passing and kicking, Bowcott being prominent.

A penalty against Cardiff for off-side by Spence enabled Boughton to gain 20 yards, but the ground was quickly recovered by the Welshmen. Turnbull and Thomas broke away for Cardiff, but Boughton brought off a glorious tackle of the wing man. The ball going loose Parker dribbled away and kicked past Stone. He followed up, but just as he was about to gather with an open goal line he was fouled. There was a loud shout from the crowd, but the referee evidently did not see the incident and Stone was allowed to clear. This was a lucky escape for Cardiff.

Gloucester put in some splendid work after this, but they were beaten off, helped by a long touch kick. The ball appeared to escape the line, but the Cardiff touch judge held a different view, and Cardiff benefited to the extent of 30 yards.

CITY HARD PRESSED

From this point Cardiff assumed the upper hand, Thomas bringing off a dazzling run. He worked towards the goal, but here succumbed to Boughton and another in a smashing tackle. The City were being hard pressed just now, and the defence was severely tested. A well-placed kick put the ball to touch ten yards from the home line, where James and Boughton in turn brought relief.

It was only temporary, however, for Cardiff were soon on the 25 line again. There were several sharp attacks on the Cardiff left, but the defence held out. Franklin at length punted into the open, where Turnbull made his mark. He, however, did not attempt a shot for goal, punting to touch for an attacking position. Gloucester cleared by the aid of James, to beyond the centre, where operations were hotly contested. Gloucester heeling, Fifield opened out, and the ball came across to Brookes, who short-punted, but Stone saved at close quarters. Play favoured the City to the interval.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER	1 goal (p)
CARDIFF	Nil

Gloucester had made a splendid showing against a fast moving opposition. Forward the teams were well matched, both packs doing fine work. The Cardiff backs had rather more of the ball, but the home defence was excellent, Brookes doing much better than in recent matches.

BAD TACKLING

The mist had got thicker when play was resumed, Cardiff early forcing a minor with a drop for goal by Bowcott. Bad tackling by Gloucester on the resumption allowed Stone and then Thomas to break away, but fortunately nothing serious resulted for the City. Some scrambling play favoured the Welshmen, who set up an attack with passing, but Thomas was well tackled.

TOO KEEN

Gloucester were not shaping so well at this stage, and play for a time was wholly confined to their half. Fifield at length got the ball away, but Brooks was upset in trying to go through, and Cardiff rushed away. They were checked in time, and a penalty taken by Boughton sent play to mid-field.

In a scramble Saxby was injured and limped off the field. Continuing with seven forwards, Gloucester made a good fight, but the exchanges were too close at times, and off-side tactics by the Cardiff wing forwards did not improve matters.

POOR FOOTBALL

Boughton and Stone shone well for their respective sides, but the football lacked incident, play having degenerated into a scramble. Saxby now returned to the City ranks amid cheers, and play was keener than ever. A Cardiff forward was now disabled, having apparently damaged his collar-bone, and the Welshmen were reduced to 14 men.

Play, however, did not show any improvement, and was mostly with the forwards. Later the visitors twice opened out to their backs, but the marking was too close. Brookes from a long kick down, ran round, and passed to Thomas, but the Lydney man was tackled before he could do anything.

The injured Cardiffian resumed, and play for some time was at mid-field. The forwards contested desperately, but neither set of backs could get moving.

TURNBULL'S SMART EFFORT

A brilliant cut through by Turnbull eventually gave Cardiff an opening. Cross continued the good work and repassed, but a smothering tackle saved the situation. James eased the pressure with several nice touch-finders, and later the forwards carried on with a combined dribble which took play beyond the centre.

Smart work by James and Thomas on the short side of the scrum made good headway, and the position was further improved with a combined effort. It was hard going for both teams, and it was difficult to find an opening for the backs.

Gloucester were hanging on to their narrow lead in fine style, and by dint of strenuous work in all departments, gained the advantage. Cardiff gradually worked back, and Thomas, on the right, made a strong effort to cross, but was stopped in time.

In the last minute Cardiff went very close, and James in clearing punted to Stone, who made his mark. The position was a favourable one, but Stone's drop for goal fell short, and with Gloucester punting out of danger the end came.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (p) (3 points)
CARDIFF Nil

REMARKS

Gloucester deserved their narrow victory – the first over a Welsh team this season – but at no point did the play reach the standard expected.

It was strenuous – too strenuous at times – and there was some desperate tackling, but the off-side tactics of the Cardiff forwards spoiled the game to a large extent.

I thought the referee – who otherwise handled a none too easy game admirably – was rather lenient with the visitors in this respect. Cardiff were sufficiently clever to abstain from these tactics, but for some reason they were continued throughout, and undoubtedly contributed to a lot of the scrambling play witnessed.

GLOUCESTER'S EARLY GOAL

Gloucester received every encouragement from that early success of Boughton's, and the team, except for a ten-minutes' fall from grace after the interval, performed splendidly. The forwards came out of a gruelling contest with distinct credit.

The Cardiff pack had weight and speed, but apart from a slight advantage in gaining possession could claim no superiority. The City eight were well together in combined rushes, and here Williams, Carpenter, and Wadley were frequently conspicuous. Saxby worked hard throughout, and Welshman was good in the lines-out. Franklin, after a lengthy absence, re-appeared and rendered useful service in the open.

BEHIND THE SCRUM

At half-back Fifield and James held their own with Poole and Bowcott. The Gloucester scrum-worker was a bit smarter than the Cardiff captain, and James vied with Bowcott with well-judged kicks.

Cardiff had their usual three-quarter line out this afternoon, but the Welshmen, although promising well at times, were rather disappointing as a combination. Turnbull made one or two good runs and Thomas looked dangerous occasionally, but the display as a whole was much below Cardiff of old. The City backs all did splendidly individually, Parker, perhaps, being the more distinguished. A. E. Brookes, on the wing, showed distinct improvement, and had hard lines in missing a try. W. Thomas was idle as regards attack, but he did not give Cross much chance to shine.

The displays of Boughton and Stone at full back were among the best features of the game. Both were highly tested, but gave finished performances in fielding and kicking.

Next week : Gloucester v. Leicester, at Leicester; Gloucester United v. Lister's, at Kingsholm.

UNITED BEATEN AT CARDIFF

BACKS OUT OF FORM

With the weather cold, only a moderate crowd welcomed Gloucester United at Cardiff Arms Park.

Cardiff early showed superiority behind, and from passing I. Evans crossed with a try which Brown failed to convert.

Sandham lost a glorious opportunity of increasing the score. The Gloucester forwards showed up well in the loose, but the backs indulged in too much kicking.

Clever work by the home forwards gained a good slice of ground, but from subsequent passing Evans failed to gather. Cardiff continued to be aggressive, and Evans receiving 10 yards out went over for an unconverted try.

Gloucester's defence was poor, and Johnson soon added the third unconverted try, and though the visitors rallied there was no finish to their back play.

Half-time :

Cardiff Athletic 3 tries
Gloucester United Nil

Gloucester opened with more promise after the interval. From the first scrum Orpin made a good run before kicking on. The forwards, following up, took the ball over the Cardiff line, where G. V. Jones managed to kick out of bounds.

Gloucester kept trying hard, and P. Jones had a couple of sparkling bursts, but his passes were ill-timed. Cardiff improved, and Morgan scored a clever unconverted try.

P. Jones missed a penalty goal for Gloucester by inches, and Morgan added another try for Cardiff, Brown converting.

Gloucester, however, hardly deserved to be beaten by such a margin. With a little more understanding behind they would have scored at least three tries.

RESULT :

CARDIFF ATHLETIC ... 1 goal 4 tries (17 points)
GLOUCESTER UNITED Nil