

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1924

FOOTBALL

CITY WELL BEATEN BY CARDIFF

AN OPEN AND INTERESTING GAME

GOOD WORK BY TAYLOR AND MILLINGTON

Gloucester paid their first visit of the season to Wales to-day, when they met their old rivals on Cardiff Arms Park.

The City's recent performances – defeats on three successive Saturdays to Bath, Bristol and Guy's Hospital – did not lend hope that the long record of reverses on Welsh grounds would be checked, but with the appearance of Tom Voyce as captain of the side, and the return of Doctor Taylor at outside half, the visitors were considerably strengthened as compared with the side which went down to Guy's at Kingsholm last week.

Gloucester were further strengthened by the inclusion of E. L. Saxby in the team, this enabling Voyce to lead the forwards.

GLOUCESTER

BACK : T. Millington.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. Brown, R. James, E. L. Saxby, and S. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS : W. Collins and Dr. Taylor.

FORWARDS : T. Voyce (capt.), S. Bayliss, F. Ayliffe, F. Ford, A. Hall, H. W. Collier, F. J. Seabrook, and M. Short.

CARDIFF

BACK : Dr. Tom Wallace.

THREE-QUARTERS : T. Johnson, R. Leon, J. Powell, and Trevor Nicholas.

HALF-BACKS : D. E. Davies and W. J. Delahay.

FORWARDS : Idris Richards, D. G. Davies, F. Stephens, Stan Davies, W. Ireson, W. J. Ould, J. Brown, and M. Lee.

In the Cardiff team Rayer, at three-quarter and Hiron and Ions (forwards) dropped out. There were important late changes to the Gloucester team. Merry dropped out forward, and with E. L. Saxby available the Hereford man took the centre position and Voyce filled the vacancy forward. The weather was fine and the ground was in splendid condition. There were 12,000 spectators despite the counter-attraction of Cardiff City being at home. The game was delayed 20 minutes owing to the visitors' train being late. The referee was Mr. Huntley (Cross Keys).

THE GAME

Voyce kicked off for Gloucester and early the Cardiff backs brought off a beautiful bout of passing which was only checked on the 25. The home forwards continued to heel and Nicholas was sent well away but Voyce got across and effected a grand tackle.

From more passing by Cardiff a visiting forward intercepted but after running a dozen yards he was tackled from behind when about to kick and fell to the ground. The City forwards broke away with good loose work, and later Taylor and James were prominent. A long kick out to the Cardiff end saw the punt out beautifully taken by Millington, who returned nicely.

The game was delightfully open, and from a pass by Collins, Taylor burst through grandly, but his pass was not taken. The Gloucester forwards, working well together, held the scrums and got the ball out at times. Once James and Saxby handled cleverly, but Crowther dropped the ball when there was a good chance of a run down the line.

Cardiff worked down by the aid of a penalty, but a smart effort by Taylor sent the ball past Wallace, who had to run back to gather. He kicked across to Crowther's wing, but the latter failed to field, though he managed to get in his kick.

Gloucester played up desperately, Voyce and Brown making good headway with dashing play down the touch-line. A misfield by James allowed Cardiff to get back. Taylor changed the venue, however, and play followed in midfield. Here Taylor, in stopping a loose rush, sustained a kick on the leg, and there was a brief stoppage. When he resumed the Doctor limped badly.

From a long throw out Leon picked up, and made a strong run for the corner. He was beautifully tackled by Millington, but, letting the ball go, JOHNSON gathered, and just managed to score. Ould failed at goal. The first score thus came after 25 minutes play.

Resuming, Gloucester got on the attack. Brown started a movement which the forwards carried on. The visitors went closer, and Cardiff were hard pressed until Johnson relieved with a nice touch-finder near the centre. Wallace ran round and started passing, Powell making a fine run. His transfer to NICHOLAS apparently beat Millington, and the wing man ran behind the posts, for Ould to add the goal points.

Gloucester, by no means discouraged, played up splendidly on the re-start, and Taylor intercepting, went through to Wallace when he passed to James, but the latter did not accept the transfer. Even play followed to the interval.

HALF-TIME :

CARDIFF 1 goal, 1 try
GLOUCESTER Nil

Cardiff had certainly done more of the attacking, but Gloucester put up a keen game and were unlucky in being eight points down, for Cardiff's second try was decidedly doubtful. Where the Welshmen were superior was in strong running and the cleverness of the backs, though the handling was faulty at times.

In less than two minutes after the re-start, Cardiff added to their score with a great try by JOHNSON. Dan Davies opened out in the loose, and the ball was quickly got across to the right wing, where Leon fed Johnson. Ten yards from the line the Welsh International was partly tackled by a couple of opponents, but shook himself free and crossed in the corner. Ould failed with the kick at goal.

Gloucester resumed, and Millington was prominent with a smart clearance under pressure. Some desperate forward work followed, and later Saxby put the City close with a good touch-finder, but the position was soon lost and the game transferred to the other end.

Here Leon brought off a dashing run, but Gloucester saved on the line with some fine tackling. Gloucester cleared through Crowther, and operations were contested at mid-field. Gloucester twice opened out, but though ground was made, the necessary scoring chance did not accrue. A fine kick by Taylor saw Wallace tackled in possession, but he passed to a colleague who cleared to touch.

Gloucester kept up the pressure, but passing in their own 25 led to Johnson breaking away and punting high. Millington, however, got back and sent to touch. Cardiff attacked strongly through Nicholls, who cut right through and looked all over a scorer, but fell to a smothering tackle by Millington.

The Cardiff three-quarter was injured, and had to leave the field, Ould coming out of the forwards to fill the vacancy. Gloucester got well down through a fine kick by Taylor, and then in some heavy exchanges Bayliss was laid out with a damaged shoulder and had to retire. In the meantime Nicholas had come back, so that Gloucester were now one short.

Resuming, the City confined play to their opponents' half for a time, but were unable to press home their advantage. Play had slowed down somewhat just now.

A dashing burst by Stephens down the touch put Cardiff on the aggressive again, and only faulty handling lost a try after a clever run by Davies. Gloucester worked out of danger, but weak defence allowed Davies to run through again, Voyce saving a try with a swinging tackle by the neck of the jersey.

The City were hotly pressed in subsequent play, scrums following under the posts. The situation was relieved by a poor attempt to drop a goal by Dan Davies. Cardiff, however, returned on the drop-out, and POWELL crossed with an unconverted try. OULD also scored and kicked a goal.

RESULT.

CARDIFF ... 2 goals 3 tries (19 points)
GLOUCESTER Nil

REMARKS

Gloucester finished badly, and weak tackling allowed Cardiff to score twice in quick succession. The game was bright and interesting. Gloucester showed much better form generally, but lacked the combination and cleverness of the Welshmen behind. The City put in a lot of sterling work forward, but there were some good individual efforts by the backs, Taylor and Millington showing up prominently.

The team play as a whole was nothing like so effective as that of the Cardiff side. Leon and Johnson were a particularly strong right wing, and Delahay and Davies, assisted by some clever heeling, collaborated effectively at half-back. Wallace, too, gave a capital display at full-back.

At forward, where the teams were more evenly matched, Voyce, Ford, and Hall were distinguished, the captain doing a lot of stopping when matters looked dangerous for his side, but at times the collaring was far too high, especially by two of the backs, and the Cardiff men, Leon and Davies, slipped the defence easily at times. Cardiff were good winners, but the score exaggerated their superiority.

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A

Cardiff A came to Kingsholm this afternoon with an unbroken record for this season. They had the misfortune to leave two of their forwards on the station at Cardiff. The weather was excellent, but the attendance was not as good as it should have been.

Teams : –

Gloucester A. – S. Williams; L. Abbey, W. Prior, Joe Rea, and P. Hogg; W. Hobbs and G. Thomas; A. Rea (captain), I. Armstrong, J. Print, L. Bartlett, T. Roberts, E. Triggs-Herbert, A. Comley, and H. Franklin.

Cardiff A. – R. Lloyd; H. Hawkins, H. Howe, G. Goldsworthy, and E. Jones; R. Cornish and D. Harleigh; T. Arnott (capt.), N. Payne, E. Spillane, R. North, C. O'Leary, M. Regan, J. B. Morgan, and T. Barnes.

Referee : Mr. A. G. L. Jones.

Cardiff kicked off, but were recalled to the centre. From the resulting scrum Cardiff kicked to the home 25, but a kick from a mark sent the game back to the centre again. Gloucester worked to the Cardiff quarter, but the visitors secured from a line-out and punted. Williams fielded and sent them back again with a useful kick to touch.

Gloucester had a splendid chance of scoring. The forwards went away with a fine dash, and Hogg getting up gathered the ball from the ground and beat the full-back with his pass, which, however, was knocked on. Gloucester were rewarded a moment later, Cardiff being penalised for a scrum infringement, and Williams landing a goal with a fine kick.

Williams was playing a splendid game, and several times gained ground with well-judged kicks. The Gloucester forwards were also giving a champion performance in the loose, their rushes giving the Cardiff defence an anxious time.

Thomas put in a useful kick to touch, but in an open movement by the home backs Goldsworthy intercepted and ran well down the wing. Williams effected a grand tackle and saved a dangerous situation. Then Abbey obtained from a line out, and got clear away to Lloyd, over whose head he punted. There was a dash for the ball, and one of the home forwards touched down, but there had been a knock-on in the rough and tumble. A conspicuous foul by Hogg led to Gloucester being penalised, but little ground was lost.

Cardiff then worked down, and from a scrum the ball came out to Howe, who dashed for the line. He was tackled, but fell over, and was awarded a try, a decision with which the crowd voiced their disagreement. Cornish added the goal points, and the home team were two points down.

This set-back was only temporary, however, for the home reserves penetrated to the Welshmen's quarter, where the forwards heeled from a scrum, and Hobbs missing, Prior sent out to Hogg, who dashed round with a fine try. The position was too far out for Williams to goal.

Play continued to be interesting, with little in it for either side, although the home forwards kept worrying the Cardiff backs. Some amusement was caused by a period of punting from full-back to full-back without the ball going to touch.

Just before half-time Gloucester carried out a sparkling movement. The halves and three-quarters handled cleanly and smartly until the ball went to Hogg, who beat several opponents and scored a great try. Williams failed with the kick.

Half-time :

Gloucester A 1 goal (p) 2 tries

Cardiff A 1 goal

Gloucester A had been full value for their lead in the first half, and on the resumption the home forwards dribbled for thirty yards, and Thomas and Hogg kicked on to the Cardiff 25.

The position was not maintained, but Gloucester soon worked back again, partly as the result of a pretty handling movement in which Prior tried a reverse pass. Again the Gloucester forwards rushed down the field with the ball at their feet, and there was a melee on the line. A score was not forthcoming from this, but Cardiff were penalised for a scrum infringement, and Williams kicked a great goal.

The visitors now invaded the home territory, but could do little, and Gloucester got back to the Cardiff 25, where a pretty open movement ended in Print bullocking his way over with two or three hanging on. Williams again majorised, bringing the home score to 17 points.

There was no slackening off, the home forwards continuing to play a splendidly dashing game. Williams was doing some useful touch-finding, and altogether the visitors were thoroughly outplayed. It was rarely now that Cardiff invaded Gloucester's territory, and when they did they were quickly sent back.

Cardiff were unable to hold their own in the scrums, and the home backs were able to handle freely. There were a number of minor infringements which prevented scores. Cardiff at last came near scoring through Jones, who dribbled well for forty yards, but Williams got the better of him and turned the ball to touch. Again they had a chance to cut through but Goldsworthy preferred to try a drop for goal, his kick being charged down.

Hogg and Prior were conspicuous with a useful combined run, but the inside three-quarter was pulled up. Again the Cardiff line was hotly besieged, but the defence held, although Gloucester looked like scoring time after time. Cardiff cleared with a sprint down touch by Hawkins, who was overhauled by Abbey before the ball turned into touch. Gloucester A secured a further try through Franklin just on time, Williams failing with the kick.

Result :

Gloucester A ... 3 goals (2p) 3 tries (20 pts.)
Cardiff A1 goal (5 pts.)

REMARKS

Gloucester A gave one of the most enjoyable displays of football seen at Kingsholm this season. All departments were in form and Cardiff were hard put to it all the time. It was in the forward line that the home reserves shone most, their work in the open being really excellent. They dribbled dangerously time after time and lost no opportunities for handling. The result was a game full of interesting incidents.

Print, Armstrong, Roberts and Franklin were conspicuous. At half, Hobbs had a rare tussle with Cornish but gave little away, and Thomas was very useful. Hogg, who today operated on the wing, combined splendidly with Prior, and did a lot of useful individual work. Abbey also was good. Williams, who seems to be more at ease with the Seconds, played a capital game, taking a full share in Gloucester's fine victory.

JC