

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1924

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v LYDNEY

WEAK TEAMS IN THE FIELD AT LYDNEY

CITY WIN BY GOAL-KICK

Gloucester had to visit Lydney for the return match with a very weakened side owing to the County fixture with Devon. Voyce, Millington, Brown, Taylor and Ayliffe were all engaged at Bristol, and Bayliss would also have been in the Gloucestershire team but for his unfortunate accident at Cardiff.

Hughes was still resting, and owing to a cold Seabrook could not make the journey. The eight vacancies were filled by players from the A Fifteen.

Lydney, too, suffered from absentees. W. Richards (half-back) and Fletcher and Day (forwards) were not included in the selected team owing to injuries, and N. Williams, P. C. Morris, and F. Taylor (forwards) were also unable to play.

The match, therefore, lost its interest as a test of the real strength of the rival clubs.

GLOUCESTER

BACK : S. Williams.

THREE-QUARTERS : P. Hogg, G. James, W. Prior, and S. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS : W. Collins and G. Thomas.

FORWARDS : A. Hall (capt.), L. Franklyn, M. Short, F. Ford, H. Collier, W. Print, W. Hemmings, and H. Roberts.

LYDNEY

BACK : A. J. Kerwood.

THREE-QUARTERS : W. Probert, H. James, R. Probert, and F. Richards.

HALF-BACKS : T. Wellington and T. Biddle.

FORWARDS : W. Biddle, J. Willis, L. James, L. Howells, E. Darters, P. Brice, B. Gardner, and T. Parry.

Referee : Mr. G. Hancock.

THE GAME

Hall started for the City, before a large crowd. The Lydney forwards started strongly, and by good footwork reached Gloucester's 25, where a scrum was formed, from which Lydney were penalised, and Williams kicked to touch.

At half-way the City forwards heeled and Thomas opened out well. A good round of passing met with a sound defence. The City forwards dribbled, but Kerwood and Biddle in turn checked the movement. Good passing was then seen between Biddle, James and Richards, and a score looked certain, Williams just saving by running into touch.

Lydney were pressing strongly, and Wellington got round the blind-side, but was held close to the line. From a scrum Lydney heeled and Biddle dropped for goal, the ball hitting the upright and rebounding into play. The City were severely pressed, James and Richards making great attempts to score, and Lydney's efforts were rewarded, WELLINGTON scoring a good try, which Kerwood failed to convert.

The game was for some time confined to the forwards, both packs putting in good work. Willis and James used their feet well, and Collins saved by falling on the ball. Lydney were having the best of the game territorially, but were well held. Collins fed Thomas, and Prior cut through in the centre, and passed to Hogg. who forced Lydney to concede a minor.

Gloucester attacked again, but Wellington relieved to half-way. Williams fielded well, and found touch in the Lydney 25, after which Lydney were forced to touch down again. Even play followed.

The City attacked, Hall leading a good forward rush, but Kerwood relieved by a splendid kick. Lydney were penalised, but the goal-kick failed.

From a long line-out, HALL secured and crossed for Gloucester under the posts, and Crowther converted, giving the City two points' lead.

Lydney played up desperately, and Gloucester's defence was severely tested, but Williams saved in splendid style.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal

LYDNEY 1 try

The game continued very even, and the defence on each side proved equal to all demands. Neither side could increase its score.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (5 points)

LYDNEY 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

The game was not a very good one from a spectator's standpoint, very little back play being witnessed, as the forwards preferred keeping the ball very close. Some very determined tackling was seen.

This style of play was probably owing to so many reserves being played by each side. There was scarcely any difference between the teams on the day's play, and Gloucester had just the luck that was going to get their two points' margin victory.

GLOUCESTER A v RUARDEAN
WIN FOR WEAK CITY RESERVES

In this match, played at Kingsholm, the home fifteen included three or four players from local clubs, several of the regular side being called upon to play for the premier team at Lydney.

Teams : –

Gloucester A : B. Brazil; S. King, L. Abbey, F. Fisher, and W. Mullins; G. Hobbs and F. Meadows; A. Hawkins, L. Meadows, C. Spencer, W. Print, D. Armstrong, E. Comley, J. Hawker, and E. Russell.

Ruardean : B. Bishop; W. James, A. Gardner, E. James, and C. Tippins; A. Watkins and W. Reid; H. Meek, I. Morgan, A. Skinner, A. Marfell, E. Knight, C. Dubberley, F. Reid, and C. Watkins.

Referee : Mr. J. P. O'Donovan.

The game was started five minutes late and in a bad light, the weather being very dull. Opening play was even, some good rushes by the Gloucester forwards being checked by the Ruardean backs, who excelled in lengthy kicks to touch, by which means they worked into a good position near the Gloucester line, only to be dislodged by the home forwards and sent to mid-field, where there was a lot of scrappy play, neither side being able to open out the play to any extent.

A mistake by Bishop nearly let the Gloucester men in, Abbey being held up just outside. Gloucester set up a long-sustained attack, which led up to the backs getting the ball, but Mullins knocked on from the final transfer. Fisher, however, got possession a little later and ran clean through the defence and scored a try. From this stage Gloucester had all the play, and attacked continuously, but indifferent handling by the backs prevented a further score.

Half-Time :

Gloucester A 1 try
Ruardean Nil

There was very little improvement in the standard of play in the second half, the Gloucester backs failing time after time to pass with any degree of accuracy, and chances were thrown away in tantalising fashion.

A long kick by C. James led to Ruardean getting very near to the Gloucester line, but play was quickly transferred to the other end and in the ball being sent over the Ruardean line. Bishop was in time to save a score by touching down.

Ruardean were not so hard pressed as in the first half, and once or twice they were dangerous after good following up, but, like their opponents, their attempts at passing were dead failures. After a clever breakaway from a line out by one of the home forwards, the ball was dribbled over the visitors' line and Comley scored, Brazil failing to convert.

Gloucester continued to hold the upper hand, but the backs were all at sea in their passing, and there was no further scoring.

Result :
Gloucester A 2 tries (6 pts.)
Ruardean Nil

JC