

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1928

LLANELLY BEATEN BY 10 PTS.

GLO'STER'S FIRST VICTORY OVER WELSH TEAM

KEEN HARD GAME

BUT LITTLE SPECTACULAR FOOTBALL

Mr. Arthur Hudson took the precaution to have the Kingsholm ground covered yesterday, and this enabled Gloucester to bring off their match with Llanelly this afternoon.

With the frost and fog, however, many anticipated the fixture would not be played, and there was only a fair attendance of spectators present.

Gloucester made one change in the side, McCanlis dropping out for Glyn Thomas.

Llanelly lacked the services of R. Finch, but the veteran Albert Jenkins, who returned to the team last Saturday against Cardiff, was included in the ranks.

Teams : —

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : I. Storrie, Glyn Thomas, L. Abbey, and R. James.

HALF-BACKS : E. Tomlinson and J. Stephens.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby, F. Wadley, A. Carpenter, E. Comley, T. Hiam, L. C. Meadows, F. Russell, and H. Meek.

LLANELLY

BACK : Cliff Ward.

THREE-QUARTERS : Rees Evans, Albert Jenkins, D. W. Evans, and W. R. Thomas.

HALF-BACKS : Bert Jones and Dai John.

FORWARDS : Ivor Jones, Iorwerth Jones, Alf Parker, W. Williams, J. Williams, G. Austin, Harry Morris, Cliff Treharne.

Referee : Mr. J. Southby (Bristol).

THE GAME

The teams were five minutes late in appearing, and with the fog gathering play was likely to be difficult to follow. Saxby kicked off for Gloucester, and there being no reply there was a scrum inside the Welshmen's 25. The City heeled but Tomlinson's pass went wide of Stephens, and the Llanelly forwards kicked ahead and beyond Boughton. The latter had to run back to field, but he managed to get a smart punt to touch. Gloucester were in a dangerous position, but Boughton came away nicely and got in a good kick. There was failure to field by two visitors, and Gloucester gained a footing in their opponents' half.

The City forwards again got the ball away, and the backs handled, Abbey finally punting a short distance, but Storrie failed to gather. The Gloucester forwards, carrying a scrum, rushed through and over the line, Meadows and Hiam just being beaten for the touch.

Llanelly cleared with useful kicks and centre play followed. There was an attempt by the City forwards to break away on the left with passing, but it failed. A big punt by Stephens tested Ward, but the Llanelly custodian fielded all right and sent to touch.

A wild pass by Storrie inside allowed the Welshmen to gain some 20 yards, and later Boughton, knocking on in gathering, gave away a good slice of ground. Llanelly next attempted passing, but it broke down at Albert Jenkins; but a couple of Gloucester men over-ran the ball and failed to take advantage.

Two penalties quickly fell to Gloucester for scrum infringements by the visiting forwards, but it availed little, and the Welshmen came clean away to Boughton with a loose dribble. Keen forward work ended favourably for Gloucester, but good chances were lost through failing to control the ball. So far there had been nothing in the way of incident, all attempts to open out play being unattended with success. Stephens was twice served sharply by his partner, but the outside half was too closely marked, and was well tackled each time.

From a long kick from a penalty by Boughton, Rees Evans received and, beating James easily, he raced down touch and cross-kicked. The Llanelly forwards were well up, and Jenkins eventually gained possession. The old International tried a drop for goal, but missed, and James touched down.

Play fluctuated between the two 25's, but the football lacked interest. Jones was again penalised for "Not in straight," and Boughton had a shot for goal from 40 yards out, a fine effort going just wide of the upright. Ward punted out pluckily and found touch with a well-judged kick.

Weak play by Stephens allowed Llanelly to bring off a good rush, but they lost their position through getting off-side. Another penalty was given against the visiting scrum half, and Boughton gave Gloucester an attacking position. A smart pick-up in the loose by Meadows and sharp pass to Storrie saw the latter cross-kick to the Llanelly line, where Ward was tackled in possession. There was a scramble five yards out, ending in the ball being taken over the mark and COMLEY credited with a try. Boughton added the goal points.

Llanelly resumed strongly and rushed down to the home line. Jones opened out, and the Welshmen, being well placed, had a fine opening. D. Evans, however, held on too long, and was brought down and lost the ball. Gloucester dribbled away, and the centre was reached before Ward checked.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER 1 goal

LLANELLY Nil

There was only a brief interval before Llanelly restarted, a big kick going over the goal line. Boughton, however, punted to touch at the 25, and later from a penalty sent play to mid-field.

Wheeling a scrum the Welshmen got well away, and ensuing play favoured the visitors. There was a slight delay owing to Comley being knocked out, but he was able to continue.

A bout of passing looked promising for Llanelly but Stephens crashed in with a smothering tackle of Jenkins and spoilt it. A break-away tackle by Saxby helped Gloucester, but Llanelly came back splendidly and the City were sorely pressed, and clever handling looked certain for a try. Evans had a fine chance of putting his wing over, but he attempted to cut inside and was held up.

Gloucester had two narrow escapes after this, and then the forwards, taking play in hand and assisted by Storrie, dribbled to beyond the half-way. The City now asserted superiority with spirited rushes and the Llanelly defence had a warm time.

One very fine dash was warded off, but Gloucester came again, and sweeping the defence before them, the ball was taken over the line under the posts, where SAXBY touched down for a try. Boughton easily converted, and Gloucester held a 10 points' lead.

Play now livened up, Llanelly displaying great dash. They were, however, successfully checked, and James with a long flying kick sent half-way down the field.

D. Evans and Ward were both at fault, and Gloucester appeared likely scorers again, but there was a lucky save close in. Boughton had a place for goal from a penalty, but shot wide, and the Welshmen cleared. Tomlinson effected a clever save under pressure, but a couple of minutes afterwards he was damaged in stopping a rush, and had to leave the field for attention.

Saxby played at scrum half, and the captain at once distinguished himself with a splendid dash, but in trying to pick up the ball he knocked on with only the full-back to beat. Tomlinson now came back.

Stephens showed up with a strong run and kick, which Ward failed to gather. The City were dangerous, but they lost position and Llanelly got beyond the centre.

The home forwards retaliated with a combined thrust, and out of it all STORRIE was given possession. With a dash for the corner, the Old Cryptian beat the defence and got the ball down in the corner for a good try. Stephens failed to convert.

Thirteen points up, Gloucester attacked on the restart, Comley bringing off a capital run and pass to James. Further progress was made, but the inside pass was not accepted.

Loose rushing by Llanelly gave them the advantage, and the Gloucester quarter was visited. From a long line out the ball was taken beautifully, and the backs served. Perfect passing followed, ending in JENKINS scoring wide out, but he missed the goal kick.

On the restart the Welsh forwards were again dangerous, but they were stopped in time. Tomlinson, with a "blind side" effort, broke away beautifully, but there was no one up with him and he was forced to kick.

Gloucester had a possible opening in the next minute, following good forward work, but it was not accepted. Llanelly worked out and in turn set up an attack, but nothing resulted.

Play travelled up and down the field at a fast pace, but it was almost impossible to follow the play accurately. In the closing stages Llanelly set up a warm attack, and Rees Evans nearly scored in the corner.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER 2 goals, 1 try (13 pts.)
LLANELLY 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

The conditions to-day were not conducive to a good exhibition of football and we did not get it. Gloucester won by reason of their superiority forward, and just now, the City pack are displaying top form.

For a good part of the game the Gloucester front beat the opposition in heeling, but though Tomlinson did his part well Jack Stephens had more or less an off-day. Now and again Stephens attempted to burst through but the Welshmen tackled very effectively, and he made little attempt to recover mistakes.

It was a substantial win credited to Gloucester, and the City well deserved their success. But the Llanelly team are not within a good stretch of the combination of past years. There was little of that sparkling back play associated with the Scarlets; not because the men were not given opportunities, but owing to lack of ability. Near the end the Welshmen gave a glimpse of clever passing, but the efforts came too late to affect the result.

The Gloucester forwards paved the way to victory by their splendid all-round work. Only in the long line-out were the home players beaten, and in this particular phase of play Joe Davies was badly missed. His return will be very welcome.

The scrummaging of the City pack was excellent all through, and the ball came back better than in any previous game. Llanelly paid the penalty for infringing the rules, and Boughton, with a bit of luck, might have added a couple of goals to the score.

In the loose the Gloucester eight brought off some very fine combined rushes, and the play in the open, too, was meritorious. It was the solid work of the whole pack that proved so gratifying, but for individual mention I would place Saxby, Comley, Carpenter, and Meadows in the order named.

Tomlinson played his best game for the City so far; he did one or two clever things in attack, and defended stoutly. Stephens did not seem to take kindly to the conditions and was less effective than I have previously seen him. At three-quarter there was nothing brilliant on the Gloucester side, either in the way of solo or combined efforts. Thomas played a very useful game in the centre and Storrie showed plenty of dash in going for his try. Abbey did capital defensive work and James made the most of his chances, which were limited.

Boughton excelled at full-back and was very enterprising in following up his kicks and initiating advance movements. He put in a number of big punts, and was safety itself in fielding. Ward had one or two bad patches, but he cleared smartly at times under great pressure.

Llanelly never seemed to get into their stride. The forwards displayed plenty of dash and dribbled well, but they were not properly supported behind. Jones and Dai John, at half-back, were not much in the limelight, and the three-quarters as a line were below Llanelly's standard. The wings showed pretty good pace and dash, but the centres did not serve them any too well.

Next week : Gloucester v. Harlequins, at Twickenham; Gloucester A v. Chepstow, at Kingsholm.