

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1929

GLOUCESTER'S GOOD SHOW AFTER OBJECTING TO PLAY

ONLY SIX POINTS BETWEEN SIDES

CITY MISS THEIR OPPORTUNITIES

Llanelly, who were well beaten at Kingsholm three weeks ago, received Gloucester this afternoon for the return fixture. The City, owing to the absence of Tomlinson and Lieut. Home, had to call on the A team half-backs, and with Saxby accepting an invitation to attend the annual dinner of the Harlequins Club in London, F. J. Seabrook led the forwards.

Llanelly had Dai John and Skym away, but in Jones-Davies (now at Cambridge) and I. M. B. Stuart (the old Irish International) capable substitutes were available.

Gloucester had only once prove successful at Stradey Park, but the City's capital form at Cardiff and Newport this season encouraged the hope that the team would make a good fight against the famous Scarlets.

Teams : —

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. James (capt.), J. Stephens, L. Abbey, and R. N. Loveridge.

HALF-BACKS : E. Price and F. Benbow.

FORWARDS : F. J. Seabrook, F. Wadley, A. Carpenter, E. Comley, T. Hiam, J. Davies, F. Russell, and W. Cuffe.

LLANELLY

BACK : Ll. Davies.

THREE-QUARTERS : E. Finch, Albert Jenkins, Syd Howell, and W. Lewis.

HALF-BACKS : Bert Thomas and T. Jones-Davies.

FORWARDS : A. Parker, W. Williams, J. Williams, C. Treharne, I. M. B. Stuart, Bryn Evans, P. Thomas, and H. Morris.

THE GAME

A severe frost during the night rendered the ground very hard where it had not been covered. Gloucester were against playing the match, and there was a long wait before a decision was come to between the rival captains.

The City eventually agreed to play 30 minutes each way. Llanelly won the toss and Seabrook started for Gloucester in bitterly cold weather and before 1,000 spectators. A useful rush by the home forwards led to a visit to the Gloucester 25, but James with a lovely touchfinder sent play back to beyond the centre.

Off-side by the City gave Llanelly a penalty, but only a few yards were gained. Boughton worked cleverly from a sharp burst down field, but Lewis fielded his kick smartly, and following up well tackled the Gloucester full back directly he received the ball. Play was not too strenuous, and was fairly even. A flying kick by Stephens travelled well down the field, and Davies only cleared moderately.

Broughton had a shot from a penalty from over half-way, but his kick was low and failed to clear. The Gloucester forwards were prominent with good footwork, and off-side lost the advantage.

Passing from a line-out saw the City backs handle nicely, and Loveridge punted, but nothing resulted. The visitors attacked strongly, and Boughton shone in some clever work for which he was heartily applauded. Working the short side of the scrum Thomas fed Finch, who broke away but was stopped in time.

Davies checked the Gloucester forwards when looking dangerous, and the game was taken to the other end. Following a dashing run by Finch Llanelly pressed for the first time, but Joe Davies gathering in the line-out cleared brilliantly to beyond the centre.

Gloucester heeling, Benbow kicked high but D. Davies managed to secure the ball and find touch. A good run by W. Lewis put Llanelly well down but the Gloucester defence was sound.

Give and take play followed, the City more than holding their own. With short rushes the Welshmen worked their way to the City 25 but a magnificent touch-finder by Boughton returned play.

Gloucester took up the attack again, Price doing good work at the scrum. Loose play favoured Llanelly, and the Welsh backs tried passing but it broke down, and Gloucester quickly transferred the game to the other end. Boughton forced a minor with a kick over the line, and after this Llanelly had a possible chance, but failed close in.

Gloucester came back in fine style, and from passing initiated by Price the ball came nicely across to James. The latter was well away, but facing the full back he passed inside and the ball was knocked on by Jenkins. Llanelly were closely pressed for a minute or two, but they eventually effected a clearance.

Clever passing and inter-passing on the left looked promising, but Boughton stepped in and spoiled it at the finish. The effort gave Llanelly territorial advantage, but off-side by the forwards gave Gloucester a penalty, and Boughton gained a good slice of ground. There was no score at the interval.

HALF-TIME :

GLoucester Nil
LLANELLY Nil

Gloucester had done very well, especially Price and Benbow at half-back, and with a little more judgment the City might have had a couple of tries.

There was a little wait before resuming, and early on Howell showed up with a good run for Llanelly, but from his punt ahead, Abbey got back and cleared.

The Welshmen set up another attack, but they were beaten off. Gloucester lost Benbow with a damaged knee, Hiam coming out to wing three-quarter, and Stephens going to outside half. Boughton failing to field a long kick was hard pressed to get the ball to touch.

Good forward work by Seabrook, Cuffe and J. Davis led to Gloucester making considerable advance, but they couldn't beat Ward[sic]. Benbow had come back, and keen play was witnessed. Seabrook again distinguished himself with footwork, and Davies' work in lines out was excellent. Gloucester lost ground when they attempted to pass out. James and then Boughton recovered.

With continued loose rushes Llanelly threatened danger and at the critical moment they overran the ball and Gloucester were able to save. Twice the City backs were sent away by Price but Loveridge stepped aside to a bunch of opponents and was laid low. A strong run by Stephens looked promising but the backs fouled and Gloucester were ordered a penalty. Boughton's place for goal just missed.

From the drop-out Boughton was left with the ball and ran round to the left wing and passed to James. The latter failed to accept and W. LEWIS picking up had a clear run home. He was hotly pursued by Stephens, who got his man in fine style but just failed to prevent a try being scored. The goal kick failed.

It was an opportunist try but it was hard lines for Gloucester after playing so hard and well. Immediately after the restart Joe Davies brought off a grand run to the full back and had bad luck in missing the ball after he had kicked over his opponent's head.

The game was very fast on resuming, Gloucester doing a lot of good work without getting any luck. In some loose play Llanelly opened out but Abbey brought off a fine tackle close in.

Finch was well stopped on the other wing, but later a series of clever exchanges saw W. LEWIS dive over in the corner with a good try. The place kick failed but Llanelly were six points up, a position they did not deserve on the run of the play.

Some keen forward work was witnessed on the resumption, Gloucester doing splendidly. Price and Benbow got the ball away nicely on several occasions but the backs could not finish off the movement successfully.

The game was nearing its end and Gloucester tried hard to effect a score. There was a possible chance near the end; at the last moment I. Davies made a clever mark.

RESULT :

LLANELLY 2 tries (6 points)
GLOUCESTER Nil

REMARKS

Llanelly were lucky in winning, for on the play Gloucester were fully equal to their opponents and had quite as many scoring chances.

The Gloucester forwards played a fine all-round game and Seabrook did some very effective work in the loose.

At half-back Price shaped exceedingly well, and was very smart in getting the ball away. Benbow also did well and altogether they shaped very creditably behind.

Llanelly were smarter in combination and to this superiority they owed their victory but there was little in it.

AN EASY VICTORY

CITY SECONDS' TRIUMPH

HEREFORD OUTPLAYED AFTER PROMISING START

There was a good crowd on the Kingsholm ground when the City Seconds met Hereford. The visitors quickly got the best of matters, and in the first minutes of the game gave the home side a shock by a smart corner try. Hamilton made a clever dash from mid-field, and passed to Le Marehead, who promptly crossed over. The goal kick failed.

The visitors were soon repulsed, play being transferred to the Hereford 25. Effective tackling, however, kept Gloucester out, and it was not until nearly ten minutes later that the home team efforts were crowned with success, when E. Voyce crossed over by the posts. The goal kick went wide of the mark.

A fine burst by the visitors brought the ball back to the home quarters, Hoare making a fine run across the field, but the passing broke down near the goal line. Half-time arrived with Hereford attacking.

Half-time :

Gloucester A 1 try

Hereford1 try

The City Seconds opened the second half in promising fashion, and within a minute of the resumption Glyn Thomas gave Gloucester the lead with a smart try, which went unconverted.

Shortly afterwards, Gloucester again applied pressure, and after some scrambling play in the visitors' 25, Foulkes went over for the home team's third unconverted try. Hereford were now unable to make very much headway, and rarely did they succeed in threatening the home line. The forwards hotly bombarded the visitors' 25, and an occasional breakaway by Hereford was repeatedly frustrated by the watchful threes.

At this stage play was very uneventful, though the visitors were kept constantly on the defence. Shortly before the end, Glyn Thomas made a smart run close to the posts, and crossed over for a try which again went unconverted.

Just on time East added another try to Gloucester's credit, Glyn Thomas converting. Play ended with Gloucester still pressing.

Result :

Gloucester A ... 1 goal 4 tries (17 pts.)
Hereford 1 try (3 pts.)

COMMENTS

The City Seconds thoroughly deserved their victory, for they had the upper hand for quite two-thirds of the game, particularly in the latter half. Hereford made an auspicious start, and snapped their one and only try in the first minute of the match. They played remarkably fast at first, but strong combination and effective tackling by the Gloucester side soon wore them down, with the result that, in the subsequent half, Gloucester did all the attacking. Of the visitors, Home was the most dangerous, but he was well marked.

JC