

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1929

CARDIFF 10 POINTS : GLOUCESTER 5 POINTS

CITY'S DISAPPOINTING DISPLAY

WELSHMEN TOO FAST AND CLEVER

MANY MISTAKES BY BOTH SIDES

Cardiff, who beat Gloucester in the first game of the season at Cardiff by 9 points to 7, had two engagements down for decision this afternoon, Leicester being their other opponents.

As was the case last week, however, the Welshmen sent their First team away from home, and the side captained by B. O. Male appeared at Kingsholm.

Gloucester had one change from the team which drew with Bristol, R. C. Thompson appearing at left wing in place of James, who was moved up to outside half vice Benbow.

Cardiff lacked the services of Barrell, injured last Saturday, but otherwise were at full strength.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. C. Thompson, J. Stephens, M. A. McCanlis, and L. Abbey.

HALF-BACKS : A. J. Tomlinson and R. James.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby, F. Wadley, J. Davies, A. Carpenter, T. Hiam, W. Cuffe, J. Hemming, and J. F. Seabrook.

CARDIFF

BACK : B. O. Male.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. T. Thomas, B. R. Turnbull, R. Boon, and Gwyn Davies.

HALF-BACKS : Howard Poole and T. Stone.

FORWARDS : R. K. Turnbull, A. Skym, N. Fender, T. M. Williams, T. Burns, P. Bunce, T. Lewis, and Cundy.

Referee : Mr. S. H. Budd (Somerset).

THE GAME

Ideal conditions again prevailed, and there was another good "gate" – some 5,000 or 6,000 – when the teams took the field ten minutes late. Gloucester won the toss, and R. Turnbull kicked off for Cardiff, the ball going to Saxby, who started passing. McCanlis punted high, and Stephens following up knocked the ball up and caught it, but was called back for a knock-on. A loose kick sent the ball to Boughton, who tried to cut up the field, but being hampered lost the ball. Matters looked dangerous, but Stephens, with a short dribble, and James, with a big punt, sent to the Cardiff half. Previously Cundy, in a melee, was injured, and had to be assisted off – hard lines for the Welshmen.

Cardiff, on resuming, at once tried to open out, but the passing went wrong, and a little later McCanlis sent behind Abbey after handling. A clever run by Stone looked promising for Cardiff, but subsequent passing went along the line to Davies, who was upset. James relieved with a fine kick to touch, but Gloucester were soon sent back.

Clever passing by the Welshmen gave Davies possession, and the left wing dashed ahead. He essayed a short punt, but fortunately Stephens was handy and saved. Gloucester were hard pressed, but James came to the rescue with another well-judged kick, and centre play followed. Cundy had now returned.

Gloucester got the ball back two or three times, but could not do anything. Cardiff were far more successful, and Stone, eluding Tomlinson and Seabrook, slipped through cleverly and opened out. Good tackling, however, prevented the movement materialising. The football was fast and open, and smart work by the visiting forwards and backs tested the defence. Cardiff continued to open out the game from the loose and there were some clever exchanges, but the marking was too close.

Ensuing play was scrambling, players indulging in risky kicks, but Cardiff had the better of the exchanges. The forwards, with a loose rush, looked dangerous, Gloucester being lucky in saving. The City were shaping very raggedly and mistakes in gathering allowed Cardiff to get very close. Stephens and James were in turn tackled, but a free to Gloucester brought relief. So far Gloucester had not settled down and the Welshmen continued to have all the play.

There was a pretty bit of combination on the left and a spectacular effort by Davies, until Stephens checked him with a good tackle. Useful kicking enabled Gloucester to clear, but they were soon beaten back, and wild passing in their own 25 nearly led to disaster. James was instrumental in easing the pressure, but it was only temporary. Cardiff set up a hot attack again, and Davies made a gallant attempt to score in the corner.

Boughton, with splendid touch-finders, brought much-needed relief to Gloucester, and then James, after some fumbling, picked up and made a brilliant run. He got to the centre and passed to Joe Davies, who punted across, but the ball went to touch. Gloucester now attacked with spirit, and there was a combined effort which looked promising. Male, however, jumped in and intercepted the final pass. The City went strongly now for a score, and James, with a splendid effort just failed with a drop at goal.

On the drop-out Saxby was distinguished with some dashing work and James again had hard lines with an attempt to drop at goal, the vice-captain screwing the ball just outside the upright.

Cardiff found a footing in the home half with some well-judged kicking, and subsequent play was exceptionally keen. No score, however, had been effected at the interval.

HALF-TIME :
GLOUCESTER Nil
CARDIFF Nil

Gloucester, as last week, showed very indifferent form in the early stages, and mistakes were frequent. There had been a distinct improvement later, but the football, as a whole, had been disappointing.

From McCanlis's restart a Cardiff forward was pulled down directly he received, but Gloucester could not make any progress.

Boughton, mis-judging a long kick, had to run round to clear, and he punted straight to Gwyn Davies, who dodged several home players, and sent across to the left, but an off-side tackle cost the visitors a penalty. A little later Gloucester were penalised, but Male's place for goal fell short.

The drop-out saw some exciting play. Cardiff attacked, but could not find an opening. An exchange of kicks left the ball with Abbey, who dodged a couple of opponents and kicked down the field. Boughton came along, and with his soccer experience judged a beautiful kick to the centre of the field. Hiam, well up, took the ball and passed to Saxby, and Gloucester had a splendid opening. The fast Cardiff men raced back, and though the home team made gallant attempts to effect a score they were not rewarded.

Cardiff shifted play to the other end, where Boughton was seen to advantage. Then Gwyn Davies recovered from passing, and though cut off by McCanlis, he came inside and beat man after man, the attempts at tackling by the home players being feeble in the extreme. Davies eventually passed, but the ball went forward, and the effort came to an end.

Gloucester, with good work, rushed to their opponents' half, where Tomlinson punted ahead and collared Boon in possession. The ball, however, was gained by Cardiff, who broke away in good style. A forward got clear, but his pass was fumbled. It was hard going now with Cardiff on top. Still with frequent handling they could not beat the defence. Once the attack was changed from right to left, but without success, though Cundy was only stopped outside.

Gloucester had a very hard time for the next few minutes, but with Cardiff's old skill and cleverness in attack tries would have been scored on more than one occasion. Stephens was instrumental in changing the situation, and Davies further improved. Male, however, made a clever mark under pressure.

Gloucester, from just inside the Cardiff half, had a fine chance a couple of minutes later. McCanlis dashed through, and fed Stephens, who went ahead but just as he looked like clearing the defence he was tackled from behind.

An attempt to drop a goal by Stephens was charged down and the ball rebounding, Poole gathered and had a clear field. His pass, however, was not taken and Gloucester escaped. Immediately after Stephens dropped a pass from James, and a Cardiff forward taking advantage of the mistake gathered and sent STONE over with a try. Male took the place kick and converted, the ball striking the upright and going over the cross-bar.

Gloucester played up strongly on the restart, and the City attacked with passing. Stephens ran strongly and fed McCanlis, but the latter attempted a transfer inside instead of giving to Abbey and the ball went astray. Cardiff took up the running again after this and more fumbling by Gloucester saw BOON pick up and race through. He put in a short punt on facing Boughton, and again gathering, went on to score a clever try near the posts. Male added the goal points, and Cardiff were ten points up.

Cardiff had the better of the play for the next few minutes, Gloucester being well beaten. The City, however, came again, and after good work by Stephens and McCanlis the ball was taken over the line and CARPENTER credited with a try. Boughton kicked a fine goal.

Gloucester, with a combined forward rush, were well away on the restart, but Stone checked and punted away. At the finish play was in the home 25.

RESULT :

CARDIFF 2 goals (10 points)

GLOUCESTER 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS

Gloucester were very disappointing to-day, and though Cardiff had their bad periods, especially in handling, as a combination they were too fast and clever for the home team, and deserved their success. Had the margin of defeat been heavier the City could not have complained.

JC