

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1908

FOOTBALL

GOOD FRIDAY MATCHES

GLOUCESTER v. LONDON WELSH

The annual visit of the London Welsh team to Kingsholm proved a popular attraction, and there was a capital attendance of spectators. The visitors were strengthened by three Cardiffians – the Brothers Casey and Powell – whilst Gloucester fielded a good side, Gent being the only absentee of note. Hudson, however, was suffering with a bad knee, and only turned out under pressure, both the Second team wing men (Beard and Baldwin) not being available. The weather was warm, the sun being very powerful.

The following were the teams : –

Gloucester. – F. Welshman, back; A. Hudson, G. Cook, J. Stephens, and F. Smith, three-quarter backs; A. Hall and W. Dix, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), W. Johns, B. Parham, H. Quixley, H. Berry, G. Holford, D. Hollands, and R. Craddock, forwards.

London Welsh. – J. S. Evans, back; H. T. Maddocks (captain), Gwilym Jones, T. P. Lloyd, and W. J. Norton, three-quarter backs; C. F. Rowlands and P. J. Monaghan, half-backs; J. C. Jenkins, H. S. Coppock, H. E. Wilkins, W. Brydon, H. G. Thomas, W. Casey, J. Casey, and J. Powell, forwards.

The Welsh had to face the sun, but in three minutes the visitors had crossed with a fine try by Maddocks after pretty passing. Gloucester's marking was very weak, and not a man was pulled down. The place kick failed.

Continuing to open out, the Welshmen had another fine opening, but Lloyd dropped his pass with only Welshman to beat. Gloucester had a narrow escape a minute later, but eventually cleared through Parham from a line out. Johns, following up a kick, charged down the return, and the ball was dribbled past Evans. The City had a fine chance, but Hudson, who had come across, knocked on in picking up with only a couple of yards to go. Immediately after Dix, Hall, and Smith passed prettily, but Hall missed the return transfer from the wing with the goal-line at his mercy. The Welsh changed the venue with useful kicks, and from a drop at goal from a penalty forced a minor.

Ensuing play was even, but at length Hudson, from a clever pass by Cook, raced down and cross-kicked, only to see Evans save in good style. In some loose play Hudson fielded, and Stephens, Cook, and Smith handled sharply. The latter, however, was finely tackled by Maddocks and lost the ball.

A bad mistake by Smith, who missed a flying kick, allowed the Welsh to reach the centre, but Gloucester at once dribbled back. The ball was kicked past Evans, and striking the corner flag pole came back into play. Hollands gathered and ran round behind the posts, but the visiting touch judge ruled that the ball had gone to touch-in-goal – hard lines for the City.

Resuming, Gloucester were conspicuous with a dangerous forward burst, which placed the visitors' lines in danger. The Welsh heeled, but Dix beat Rowlands for the ball, which went close to the line. Hall and Smith between them got the ball over, and the latter touched down for a try. Cook failed at goal.

In a tackle just previously Evans, the visiting full-back, injured his wrist, and had to retire. With fourteen men the Welshmen had the better of the exchanges, and Gloucester had to concede a minor. Maddocks marked from the drop-out, and cross-kicked. The City men made a weak attempt to gather, and Cook was collared a few yards from the line. A loose scrum followed, ending in Monaghan picking up and scoring a neat try. No goal resulted.

Gloucester dropped out, but the home team were shaping very poorly. Welshman fumbled a long kick by a visitor, and this led to another attack on the Gloucester goal. From a scrum 20 yards out Monaghan whipped out the ball to Rowlands, who beat the opposition cheaply, and notched a fine try. Maddocks landed a goal, giving his side an eight points' lead. Before the interval Gloucester had a possible chance, but it was not accepted.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
London Welsh 1 goal, 2 tries
Gloucester 1try

Gloucester re-started, and the City early reduced the lead against them. A long kick by Cook went to the visiting full-back. The Gloucester centre followed up and charged down the return, the ball going behind the Londoner and into the arms of Holford, who scored very easily. Welshman added the goal points.

Encouraged by this success the City played up strongly, and a desperate forward burst, in which Parham, Berry, and Holford shone, nearly brought about a score.

The Welsh saved later by touching down, but two or three minutes later the City forwards were off again in irresistible style. The Welsh defence was clean beaten, and Johns was credited with a try under the posts. Welshman converted, and Gloucester led by two points.

The re-start was well replied to, and later Hall kicked high to the full-back. The Londoner punted, but the ball was taken by Stephens, who passed inside to Hall. The half-back gave up to Johns, who completed a clever movement by scoring his second try. Welshman just failed to land a goal.

Vears was led off the field in a fainting condition before the game resumed, having been partially stunned in colliding with a player, but after attention he was able to continue.

There was some very fast play just now, Maddocks putting in a couple of fine runs, being only brought down from behind on one occasion. In some loose play Hudson was nearly through afterwards, but failed to gather the ball accurately.

Subsequent play was very hot and contested at a fast pace. Welshman was prominent with some fine touch kicks, which enabled Gloucester to hold their position. Twice, however, the visiting right wing got going, Maddocks being very difficult to stop. From a smart effort by Rowlands and Maddocks the Gloucester defence was at length pierced by a forward, but the goal kick failed.

To the end play was well contested, but there was no further scoring, and Gloucester won somewhat luckily by two points.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 goals, 2 tries (16 points)
Welsh 1 goal, 3 tries (14 points)

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