

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1908

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CARDIFF

FINE SHOW BY THE CITY TEAM

For their match at Cardiff Gloucester had to rely on the same team as last week, Berry again being played at centre owing to Elliott being unavailable. The latter's injury proved more serious than was thought at first, and he has had to spend some time in hospital.

Cardiff were strengthened by the inclusion of Gabe for the first time this season. Winfield came in for Woods, G. Jones for Spiller, and E. Shepherd and E. Harding for Smith and Pike.

The City have put up some good games at Cardiff, but only once during the past eighteen years have they succeeded in beating their famous rivals. This was in 1897-8, when Gloucester won by 2 goals (1 d) to 1 goal – 9 points to 5.

The following were the teams : –

Gloucester. – F. Welshman, back; F. Smith, H. Berry, W. Hall, and A. Hudson, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent, J. Stephens, half-backs; W. Johns, D. Hollands, B. Parham, G. Vears, R. Craddock, G. Griffiths, G. Holford, J. Wyburn, forwards.

Cardiff. – H. B. Winfield, back; D. Furniss, G. Jones, R. T. Gabe, L. M. Dyke, three-quarter backs; P. F. Bush (capt.), R. Davies, half-backs; J. Brown, D. Westacott, J. Pugsley, J. Casey, W. Casey, E. Shepherd, E. Harding, forwards.

Referee : Mr. E. Roberts (Welsh Union)

THE GAME

Brown started for Cardiff in threatening weather, and there being no return play opened in the Gloucester half. The Welshmen heeled from the first two scrums, but the passing broke down. Later Welshman punted to the centre, where some smart work was witnessed.

Gent getting the ball from a scrum, a series of exchanges ended in Hudson kicking to Winfield, who replied nicely. Welshman was heartily cheered for a fine clearance kick, and later for another clever bit of work against the Cardiff forwards.

Holford and Johns were prominent with some capital play, but the referee wrongly penalised the former, and this cost Gloucester some twenty yards. Ensuing play was very fast, both teams shaping well. Bush eventually opened out, and Gabe breaking away passed to Dyke, who put Jones over with a good try. The place-kick failed.

Gloucester re-started, and the City backs handling smartly, considerable headway was made. Berry, however, failed to take a low pass from Hall, and the movement was checked. The Gloucester forwards continued to heel well, and Gent and Stephens were clever in getting the ball away, but the three-quarters could not make much impression.

A good effort by Stephens saw Winfield tackled in possession, but Cardiff soon relieved. After exchange kicking between Winfield and Welshman, Bush secured and brought off a sensational run, a try only being lost through a forward transfer.

Gloucester came away with good kicking, a long punt finding touch in the Cardiff half. Attempts at passing by the home backs were broken down by keen tackling, Hudson being conspicuous.

Even play followed, the City forwards doing splendidly. Gent opened out cleverly several times, but the Gloucester backs kicked too much.

A mis-kick by Hall lost Gloucester ground, and then F. Smith badly missed fielding. Dyke came along and dribbled clear, but being fouled by Smith, Gloucester were penalised, and Winfield placed a goal.

Resuming, Gloucester played up strongly, the forwards doing wonderfully well, but the three-quarters were weak, making little ground with their passing. A spell of even play ensued at midfield until a mistake by Stephens nearly let Bush in, the latter knocking on in picking up.

The City with good forward work gained ground, but off-side by Smith gave Cardiff a penalty, and with the resultant kick Winfield sent to touch-in-goal. Immediately after the interval was sounded, Cardiff holding a six points' lead.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Cardiff 1 goal (p) 1 try
Gloucester Nil

Gloucester re-started, and early on the City forwards were prominent with a dashing burst, but off-side spoiled it. With a kick Winfield found touch beautifully at centre. Here Gloucester heeled nicely, and Berry ran strongly, but the ball eventually went astray.

Fast and exciting play followed, and then the Cardiff backs got under way. Furniss raced down touch, and when confronted by Welshman passed inside to Dyke, who scored easily. No goal resulted.

Play on resumption was contested in the Gloucester half, but the City held their own fairly well. The backs, however, continued to make the mistake of kicking in the open. Welshman brilliantly cleared from an attack initiated by Bush, and Gloucester reached the centre. Here Smith intercepted a pass from Gabe, and after a grand run in which he beat Winfield nicely, scored in the corner. Welshman missed the goal.

Gloucester, encouraged by this success, played up with increased vigour, and Hall and then Johns had the misfortune to knock on when there were good openings.

Bush, with a dodgy run, put Cardiff well up, but Jones was pushed to touch in the nick of time. Gloucester cleared from a dangerous position, and Smith profiting by slovenly passing, kicked to Winfield, who was rushed out of play.

Hudson had now changed places with Berry, but it was a mistake by the City captain that let Cardiff into the visitors' 25. Scrums followed in close proximity to the Gloucester line finally ending in Bush scoring cleverly on the blind side. Winfield goaled with a lovely kick.

Vears resumed, and Gloucester at once gained a footing in their opponents' half. Gent opening out, Stephens fed Hudson, who darted through, but was tackled by Jones. The City captain, however, managed to transfer to Smith, who with a magnificent effort beat Winfield and raced round behind the posts, for Welshman to convert. The score now stood at 14 points to 8 in favour of Cardiff.

On the re-start, Gloucester displayed dashing football and mistakes by Cardiff in passing gave Hudson a fine opening. The International came through at a rare pace, but failed to scoop up the ball with an open goal. This was a lucky escape for Cardiff.

The home team changed the venue and Bush and Gabe tried hard to break through, but were stopped. Towards the end Cardiff had the better of the exchanges.

Winfield had a shot for goal from a penalty, but the ball went wide of the posts. Soon afterwards the end came.

RESULT :

Cardiff 2 goals (1 p) 2 tries (14 points)
Gloucester 1 goal 1 try (8 points)

REMARKS

It was a splendidly contested game, with plenty of open play. Though beaten Gloucester put up a fine show, and thoroughly deserved their points. The City forwards displayed form fifty per cent better than in the exhibitions at home, and clearly showed they can play if they like.

In the scrums they were better than Cardiff and heeled four times to their opponents' once; in fact, the Gloucester backs never had so much of the ball on Welsh soil. Unfortunately the City three-quarters as a line were unable to make the best use of their opportunities, though they were beautifully served by Gent and Stephens, who gave of their best. Frank Smith's two tries were lovely efforts, and the spectators applauded most impartially.

Hudson did some splendid tackling, but was not a success in attack. In pace and combination the City third line was not up to Cardiff's standard, and this was the secret of their downfall. Welshman gave a capital display at full-back, and in every respect compared most favourably with Winfield. Bush was the clever artist for Cardiff behind.

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A

NINE POINTS' WIN FOR CITY SECONDS.

As usual, with the premier teams in rivalry at Cardiff, the A teams met at Kingsholm, in bright weather before a fair attendance.

The teams were : –

Gloucester A. – C. Lister; J. M. Baldwin, C. Cook, J. Hamblin, and A. Pegler; W. Dix and H. Smith; A. Hawker (capt.), F. Pegler, S. Hayward, H. Bird, W. Nelmes, H. Wixey, J. Hall, and W. Blackford.

Cardiff A. – R. Williams; D. Davis, C. Tombs, T. Buck, and E. Smith; C. Culverwell and J. Thomas; G. Northmore (capt.), F. Gaccon, G. Yewlett, J. Day, J. Ward, D. Scanlon, W. Duncan, and D. Thomas.

Cardiff started, and there being no return play opened in the Gloucester half. A very fine break-away by the Gloucester forwards, however, carried play to the centre, where a free to Gloucester gained further ground. Baldwin got in a neat kick, but Cardiff retaliated and the ball was rushed to Lister, who relied on a flying kick – a dangerous expedient at any time.

Called on a little later, Lister put in a fine touch-finder. Hawker dribbled away cleverly, but Cardiff sent to touch in the home 25. Here the Welshmen opened out nicely, but Cook cut in and spoilt the passing, although he knocked on. A dangerous rush by Cardiff was only stopped by Lister dashing in.

An exchange of kicks followed, but play settled again in the home quarter. A free, taken by Cook, brought relief. The Gloucester forwards heeled nicely and Dix got the ball away, but Cook muffed his pass.

The Second men were showing much improved form in the tackling line, going for their men low with great determination, a state of affairs the First XV. might do well to emulate.

Gradually, yard by yard, the home men worked into Cardiff's 25. Here a free was given against Cardiff, but Cook's kick was a poor one and Cardiff worked out to the centre. The ball came out to Hamblin, but in attempting to cut through instead of feeding his wing, he was downed, and a good chance was lost.

Further kicks left Cardiff with the advantage, and they were again in the home 25. Cardiff attacked desperately now, and twice scrums were called five yards out for carrying over. The home forwards eventually wheeled a scrum nicely and got clear.

The respite, however was not of long standing, and after poor passing by the Cardiff centres, the ball was kicked over the line, Lister touching down.

Then Williams was tested, and he put in a magnificent touch-finder, putting Gloucester well on the defensive again. They, however, cleared, only to be driven back by another forward rush. Play was chiefly in the home half, but the visitors lacked finish, and they rarely looked really dangerous. A great rush by the Gloucester front carried the game right into the enemy's territory, but Williams saved splendidly. Dix and Smith opened nicely, but Cook held too long. The kick and rush style helped the visitors to again change the venue, and Gloucester were busy defending again.

A nice opening was again worked out by the home halves, but the passing broke down ere Baldwin had a chance. Shortly after, with the ball at neutral ground, half-time was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A	Nil
Cardiff	Nil

Hawker restarted, and a loose rush by Gloucester early on looked dangerous, but Cardiff cleared. The tactics, however, were repeated a moment later, and the ball was rushed over the line, Bird being credited with a try. Hayward took the kick, but just missed the coveted goal.

A pretty hot rough and tumble ended in the referee cautioning a visitor. Cardiff centred play, but again the Gloucester front put in a telling rush and only a brilliant save by Williams averted disaster for Cardiff. Gloucester now attacked hotly, but the defence was very keen.

A free to Cardiff brought the visitors but slight relief, thanks to a good return by Dix. Gloucester then had a glorious chance from a line-out, but at the third pass the ball got loose and Cardiff were saved. A moment later a forward dashed over, but the whistle had gone.

The visitors were having a pretty warm time of it just here, and eventually the attack prevailed, the ball being rushed over and Wixey credited with a try far out. The kick just failed.

Gloucester were still holding the upper hand, but eventually, the Cardiff forwards put in a fine rush, and the Gloucester quarter was reached. The visitors tried passing, but it broke down badly.

Hamblin broke away prettily, but he fell headlong when confronted by Williams. A moment later the latter was forced to kick out from his own line, and another hot attack was set up on the Cardiff citadel. Baldwin cut through beautifully and crossed the line, but he unaccountably lost the ball – hard lines.

Cardiff worked out of danger, and a good open movement looked promising for them, but Lister effected a good tackle.

The visitors were now in a strong attacking position, and looked like scoring, but Hall brought relief. Williams, however, put in a good return, and Gloucester were again forced to defend.

Bird, with a fine individual burst, got right away, and was only stopped, again by Williams. A tricky run by Cook made a good slice of ground, and Gloucester were again in Cardiff's 25.

Here the game remained for a long time, and eventually Hawker, receiving from Pegler, threw out wide, and after several transfers the ball came to Baldwin, who scored a brilliant unconverted try in the corner.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 3 tries (9 points)

Cardiff A Nil

REMARKS

The City Seconds thoroughly deserved their win on the day's play, but they were a trifle lucky to escape without any score against them, as twice in quick succession in the second half Cardiff only missed the line by inches.

The outstanding feature of the match was the greatly improved form shown by the forwards, who exceeded their most extravagant supporters' estimate. In the tight they just about held the Cardiffians, although they did not get the ball quite so often, but in the loose they were far and away superior, and to their work in this department two of the tries were directly due.

The third try was a triumph for Hawker for generalship, and for Baldwin for his plucky dash against odds. It was, in fact, the tit-bit of the match. Lister could hardly be described as a success, but he deserves another trial if he can kick with more certainty.

Of the other backs, it would be invidious to individualise, all doing well; while Hawker, Pegler, and Bird were the cream of the hard-working and consistent front rank.

The outstanding star of the visitors' side was undoubtedly Williams, the full-back, who played a very fine game throughout.