

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1908

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. PONTYPOOL

A LATE START

CITY DEFEATED BY SIX POINTS

As was the case last season, Gloucester were unable to take a representative team to Pontypool, for in addition to the cripples who have been absent so many weeks, Gordon Vears, D. R. Gent, and D. Hollands were unable to make the journey.

Vears injured his leg in the match with Leicester, Hollands could not get away from business, and Gent was engaged in preparations for a more important event.

The vacancies were filled by Hawker, Craddock, and Dix respectively, whilst the captaincy of the side devolved on W. Johns.

Gloucester. – F. Welshman, back; F. Smith, W. Hall, J. Hamblin, A. Pegler, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, J. Stephens, half-backs; A. Hawker, W. Johns, H. Berry, B. Parham, G. Griffiths, G. Holford, J. Wyburn, R. Craddock, forwards.

Pontypool. – M. H. Williams, back; G. L. Hirst, W. J. Thomas, G. Parkhouse, B. Carter, three-quarter backs; S. Prosser, R. Lloyd, half-backs; R. Thomas, T. Carter, E. Stephens, A. Ranford, A. Russell, H. Johns, G. Carr, B. Uzzell, forwards.

Referee : Mr. Taylor (Cardiff).

THE GAME

At the last moment Jack Evans and Tom Davies stood down in the Pontypool team, their places being taken by Gus Parkhouse and Johns.

The Kick-off was timed for a quarter to three, but the Gloucester team were delayed on the way, and did not arrive at Pontypool Recreation Grounds until nearly an hour later so that semi-darkness had set in when the teams fielded on the ground, that was much on the soft side in places.

Rees Thomas started for Pontypool, and some exchange kicking between the backs ended in Pegler finding touch in the Pontypool half. A penalty to Pontypool enabled Morris Williams to put the ball out of play at the Gloucester 25, but Gloucester got back to the centre, and, headed by Berry, their forwards rushed to within a few yards of the line, but Pontypool drove them back to the centre.

A rush by the Pontypool forwards took play to the Gloucester quarters, and Pontypool tried passing, but it was ineffective, and Smith, picking up in the midst of a general melee, raced down to Morris Williams, punted over his head, and followed up. The Pontypool three-quarters, however, had got behind, and they saved the situation.

Gloucester were soon driven out of Pontypool territory, Rees Thomas breaking away in great style, and racing half the length of the field before being pulled down. Twice in quick succession Pontypool got the ball out to Carter on the wing, but he failed to get through. Gloucester were penalised for off-side play, and Morris Williams' place kick struck the cross-bar. Johns (Gloucester) brought off a great dribble, but Pontypool kept Gloucester penned for the last quarter hour of the half.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	Nil
Pontypool	Nil

Johns re-started for Gloucester, who at once rushed play to within a yard of Pontypool's line. Stuart Prosser relieved, and Hirst raced after the ball, but Smith managed to turn it to touch near the centre. Further clever footwork by Parkhouse and Hirst put Pontypool on the attack, but when the backs tried passing, a visitor intercepted smartly and kicked to the centre.

Holford got away cleverly with the ball at his feet, and Gloucester again got into a dangerous attacking position, and Pontypool had to concede a minor before relief could be obtained. Parkhouse again got away cleverly, and Pontypool were just getting into their stride when Hall made a mark, from which he kicked into touch in Pontypool's quarters.

The Pontypool forwards gained ground with a dribble, but Morris Williams had a kick charged down, and Griffiths, fielding, sent Pontypool back to within five yards of their line with a good kick. The Pontypool forwards, headed by Carr, rushed back. Then Pontypool tried passing, and Will Thomas in attempting to break inwards, was well tackled by Hamblin.

The Gloucester forwards tried the rushing game, but without success, Lloyd, the Pontypool half, checking them in most resolute style on several occasions. A penalty to Pontypool was taken by Morris Williams, and he almost placed a goal, the ball falling inches short and going over for a minor. Gus Carr replied to the opening kick, and Morris Williams getting the ball at half-way put it into touch right on the Gloucester line. At the ensuing line out Rees Thomas got the ball and forced his way over in the corner. Morris Williams failed with the kick.

The drop out brought no relief to Gloucester, for Pontypool now played to keep the ball close. Ultimately, in the midst of a forward rush, Pontypool scored another unconverted try through Ernie Williams.

RESULT :

Pontypool 2 tries (6 points)
Gloucester Nil

REMARKS

Our Pontypool correspondent telegraphs : –

It would be unfair to condemn either team on the day's play, for the game was fairly played in semi-darkness, and the field was in a wretched condition. Pontypool were superior forward, and to that their victory is attributable. Welshman played a fine game for Gloucester, Hall was safe, and Johns was the pick of their forwards.

Pontypool thoroughly deserved their victory, and while Gloucester ought to have scored once, Pontypool had the hardest of luck in not having two penalty goals.

GLOUCESTER A v. BREAM

SECONDS WIN A POOR GAME

At Kingsholm before a poor crowd. Both teams suffered from absentees. Owing to the late arrival of the visitors the kick-off was delayed until after 3 o'clock.

Gloucester A. – C. Cook; J. M. Baldwin, A. Harris, J. Holder, and Harry Smith; L. Rudge and B. Worlock; H. Kirby, W. Blackford, R. Bird, H. Aston, W. Nelmes, D. Hollands, J. Hall, and H. Daniells.

Bream. – F. Moore; F. Kent, H. Rudge, W. Baker, and W. Preset; J. Baker and A. Jenkins; F. Westbury, E. Kilby, A. Adams, F. Robbins, W. Robbins, C. James, C. Smith and P. Gilbert.

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis (Stroud).

Gloucester started, and opening play was contested in the Bream half. The Foresters were early penalised, and Cook had a shot for goal, but a good attempt went wide. After the drop-out Bream reached midfield by the aid of useful kicks, but the home forwards dribbled back, off-side spoiling a smart movement.

A penalty against Gloucester was well replied to but Moore twice relieved in capital style. A dangerous rush by the Seconds' front took them under the visitors' posts, where from a scrum Rudge fed Worlock, but the latter was too slow in getting the ball away, and was pulled over.

Scrappy forward play followed until Rudge dribbled through, and a cross-kick gave the City a possible opening. A visitor, however, saved neatly. In some loose play the ball got into the open, where Hollands essayed a drop at goal, but failed, a minor resulting.

So far the play was wholly confined to the forwards, but later Bream showed some smart back play, which took them inside the Gloucester half. Here Worlock received and punted to Moore, who missed fielding, but Baldwin, who came up at a fast pace, failed to pick up.

Clever combination by Bream seriously tested the home defence, but the situation was saved. Next Gloucester got right away, and there was every chance of a score. The referee, however, pulled the home team up for a forward pass – a mistake on the official's part.

Subsequent operations were of a scrambling nature, each end in turn being visited. From a cross-punt by Cook, Rudge fumbled and was tackled on the line. A scrum was formed five yards out, and Rudge sending to Worlock, the latter dropped a neat goal.

Just before the interval Baker (Bream) brought off a clever run and pass, and the visitors looked all over scorers. The final transfer, however, went astray. For an infringement Gloucester were penalised, but the shot at goal was a failure.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 1 goal (d)
Bream Nil

The opening stages of the second half were absolutely devoid of interest, consisting mainly of scrambling forward play with mistakes and infringements constantly occurring.

There was little advantage to either side, but Baldwin, following up a kick, was just robbed of a try in the corner by Moore. Bream cleared, but they were beaten back with a strong forward rush. Later Cook had a place kick from a penalty, but his shot fell short, and the visitors ran out and cleared.

Subsequent exchanges were mostly in favour of the Seconds, but the attacks were miserably ineffective. Hollands missed a try by a touch after a smart effort from a throw out, but otherwise the side never looked like scoring, although continually in their opponents' 25.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 1 goal (d) (4 points)
Bream Nil

REMARKS

A wretchedly poor display of football, even allowing for the bad state of the ground. Bream were the smarter behind, but forward honours were fairly even.

Worlock, outside half for the A team, won the game for his side with a dropped goal, but his play generally was feeble in the extreme. The only redeeming features of the game were the play of the respective full-backs – Cook and Moore – both of whom did well.

JC