

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1909

## FOOTBALL

### GLOUCESTER'S DEFEAT AT PONTYPOOL

Our Pontypool correspondent, in some comments on Saturday's match, which resulted in the defeat of Gloucester by 2 dropped goals and 2 tries to nil, says : –

Pontypool were not quite 14 points the better side, but, taking the game through, they were just a trifle superior to Gloucester at all points, and it was that trifle which rightly turned the scales in their favour.

In the first half Gloucester were almost continually on the defensive, but in the latter stages of the game they were attacking in deadly earnest for a considerable period, and they would doubtless have scored on more than once occasion had their backs possessed the least bit more finish. As it was, however, the sturdy defence that was offered by the Monmouthshire men proved an insurmountable barrier, and in the matter of attack, too, Pontypool were just a wee bit cleverer and more "classy" than their opponents.

Gloucester were beaten for possession in the scrummages in the first half, and the advantage which Pontypool gained through the superiority of their pack as scrummagers was such as to enable Prosser and Lloyd, the Pontypool halves, to give the City backs such a warm time that they will not forget their visit to Pontypool for many a day.

For the first quarter of an hour Stephens looked after the wily Prosser – who is being hailed by many Monmouthshire folk as one of the finest halves Wales has ever produced – in a clever and determined manner, but subsequently both Stephens and Gent suffered by comparison with the Pontypool pair.

Particularly was this the case in regard to Prosser, who was the hero of the game, for he not only scored a try (which, by the way, ought easily to have been prevented, having regard to the fact that he ran right through the Gloucester pack just as they were breaking up from a scrummage) but also kicked the two goals.

The Gloucester forwards played up finely in the second half. Vears had them well under control, and the result was that their backs were given many chances, all of which they failed to take advantage of. Vears was a host in himself, and he and Berry were the best of the City front.

Hall and Elliott, at centre, were sound rather than brilliant, and once or twice they might have opened a scoring account had they given more accurate passes. Smith, on the wing, was easily the best of the Gloucester quartet, and it was really a great pity that a man who appeared to possess exceptional talent, as he did, should have had such a few chances as he had.

Cook did splendidly at full back. He kicked, fielded, and tackled in the most approved style, and it was no fault of his that his side sustained defeat. Pontypool were absolutely at their best, and Gloucester had to pay the penalty – a heavy penalty, too – for meeting them in their happiest mood.

It was an interesting game to watch (remarks the "South Wales Daily News"), and one which was fought out with plenty of dash and determination by each side. The citizens were defeated by the all-round superiority of their opponents. Gloucester showed somewhat improved form in the latter half, and vigorously attacked, but the splendid play of the home backs and particularly the tackling and touch-finding of Williams, the Pontypool full-back, was beyond praise. The visitors showed some skill in wheeling the scrimmages occasionally, but their half-backs were completely out-maneuvred by the opposing pair, S. Prosser and R. Lloyd, who were as alert as ever.

The visitors' three-quarter line gave an occasional meritorious display, and were consistently good at touch-finding, yet they were far inferior to the home quartette, who, notwithstanding several missed passes, were better exponents of organised back play. The sturdy defence of the citizens alone accounted for the score not being more than 14 points to nothing when the whistle blew.

### THE GLOUCESTER FULL-BACK

We hear that C. Cook, the Gloucester full-back, has gone to Abertillery, where, it is stated, he had the choice of three jobs offered him. Cook has been out of work for some time.

JC