

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1909

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. CARDIFF

WELSH METROPOLITANS AT KINGSHOLM

CITY'S FIRST HOME DEFEAT

CARDIFF PLAYER INJURED

Since their memorable victory over Swansea, Gloucester have been rather disappointing, but it was hoped that against Cardiff, at Kingsholm to-day, the City would show their true form. The absence of Hudson weakened the Gloucester back division both in attack and defence, and there was not any great confidence locally that the team would repeat their Swansea triumph at the expense of the Welsh Metropolitans.

Cardiff have generally done well at Kingsholm, though in several games they had to struggle hard for victory. The Welshmen have not given entire satisfaction to their supporters this season, and against Swansea last week, at Cardiff Arms Park, they were well beaten on the play, though escaping with a pointless draw.

The visitors selected their strongest fifteen to oppose Gloucester, and the side, on paper, especially the back division, was a formidable combination, with something like half a dozen Internationals in the ranks. There were two changes forward in the Cardiff team, Brown and Gaccon being absent, whilst Griffiths took the place of Wyburn in the City pack.

The weather was dull, but a high wind, blowing right across the ground, kept the rain off. This was all right from a spectator's point of view, but likely to upset the play. The ground was in capital condition, and a big crowd assembled to welcome the Cardiffians.

The teams took the field only a few minutes late as follows : –

Gloucester. – W. Egerton, back; F. Smith, W. Hall, T. Elliott, J. M. Baldwin, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent (capt.), J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears, W. Johns, H. Berry, W. J. Pearce, D. Hollands, J. Wyburn, G. Holford, Lieut. Carleton, forwards.

Cardiff. – R. Williams, back; J. L. Williams (capt.), L. M. Dyke, W. Spiller, R. A. Gibbs, three-quarter backs; P. F. Bush, W. Morgan, half-backs; F. Smith, J. Pugsley, D. Westacott, F. Groves, D. Pike, W. Jenkins, J. Scanlon, C. Brookman, forwards.

Referee : Mr. J. H. Miles (Leicester)

The visitors won the toss, and Vears kicked off from the Worcester-street goal, Cardiff being favoured with the wind. A Cardiffian marked and punted high in return to Hall, who misfielded, the ball rebounding in front of him some yards. A Welshman tried to field, but missed, and Frank Smith kicked through to Dyke, who was tackled in possession.

From the first scrum Gloucester heeled, but Stephens knocked on Gent's pass and nothing resulted. Good play by the Gloucester forwards sent the ball to Williams, who was pulled down on the 25 line. A timely punt by Gent took the City closer to the line, where from a throw-out Berry dashed over with the ball, but was called back for an infringement.

The Gloucester forwards again heeled, and Stephens tried a long pass – rather injudicious with such a wind blowing. The transfer was intercepted by Spiller, who had a clear field with the exception of Egerton. There was a fine opening, but Gibbs failed to take a rather bad pass.

Near the centre Morgan fed Bush, who dodged a couple of opponents, but passed badly. Hall intercepted and kicked through. Gent unfortunately fielded off-side, and instead of a certain score Gloucester were penalised.

The resultant kick took play to the home half, where the Cardiff backs were given possession. Perfect passing followed, ending in Gibbs racing round and behind the posts with a fine try. Bush landed a goal.

Gloucester resumed, and some fast play was witnessed. The Gloucester forwards were prominent with a grand rush, but R. Williams stopped them cleverly at mid-field. Here Cardiff tried more passing, but it broke down, and Gloucester had a chance of getting clear, but missed it. A smart bit of play by Dyke, who eluded several Gloucester men cheaply, and got in a fine kick, tested the City defence.

A series of exchanges by the visiting backs looked all over for another try, but a forward transfer spoiled the movement. Play still hovered in the City 25, where Gent twice saved in capital style. A useful kick by the same player enabled Gloucester to reach more favourable quarters, but Cardiff sent back smartly. Gent spoiled Morgan at the scrum, but the latter managed to kick across, where Elliott snapped up the ball from Spiller and broke through strongly. He tried to hand off Gibbs, but failed, and though he got the ball away to Baldwin, the wing man could not hold the pass.

Centre play ensued, in which players on both sides did some smart work, but little ground was made. The Gloucester pack eventually heeled smartly, and Stephens fed Elliott, who had come up, but the soldier failed badly to take the transfer. A penalty against Morgan was taken by Egerton, but Dyke, with a clever kick, found touch inside the home 25.

Some scrambling play ensued, ending in Cardiff forcing their way to the City line. Here a Cardiff forward picked up and got over the line with a try, which Bush again converted.

Vears resumed, and early on the Gloucester backs handled, but they made no headway. Still Gloucester pegged away, and taking advantage of some loose passing by the Welsh backs, Hall nearly dribbled through.

Baldwin next got possession and put in a short punt, but R. Williams marked cleverly. Stephens replied well to the kick, and Johns following up collared Spiller some 20 yards from the line. Loose kicking looked to give Gloucester a chance, but a visitor saved nicely and got his side out of a difficult situation.

Gloucester maintained their position for a few minutes, the forwards working well together, but Spiller eventually punted to beyond the centre, where Gent effected a clever mark. A wheel by the Cardiff forwards was well checked, and then Griffiths, with clever play from a line-out, threw to Hall, who got in a smart touch-kick. The same player a moment later stopped the Cardiff forwards in a dangerous rush.

The City front brought off a fine bit of footwork until checked by Dyke. Taking full advantage of the wind Cardiff kicked high and followed up several times. Once Hollands failed to field, and matters looked ominous. Gent, however, came to the rescue, and saved cleverly. Cardiff, however, still pressed, thanks to a fine kick by Dyke, and following a long pass out by Bush, Gibbs received, and with a fine effort scored in the corner. The place kick failed.

Thirteen points in arrears, Gloucester restarted, Cardiff replying with a passing bout. A transfer, however, went astray, and Elliott dribbled down the line, sending to the centre of the field, where a visitor, with a lucky flying kick, checked the movement. Soon afterwards half-time was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Cardiff 2 goals 1 try
Gloucester Nil

Cardiff re-started, Egerton returning to touch just outside his 25. Clever play by Gent soon took the City to their opponents' half, where some hot forward work was witnessed. Cardiff were penalised, and Egerton had a shot from a long way out. His kick fell short, but the Gloucester forwards prevented a return. The ball getting loose the City forwards dashed through, and the Cardiff lines had a narrow escape.

Working desperately Gloucester went very close, and great excitement prevailed. From a scrum five yards out Cardiff heeled, and Morgan passed back to Williams. The latter missed the ball, and Gent getting possession crossed the line amidst great cheering. From the touch-line Egerton landed a magnificent goal.

Cardiff re-started, and play settled in the home half. Gent, with a smart effort, came right away and quickly changed the venue. Cardiff replied with a passing bout, but there was some muddling, and Gloucester, taking advantage, transferred to the other end. Williams kicked back, and Hollands fielding he ran across and passed to Hall. The latter yielded to Elliott, who sent on to Baldwin, but the wing man was hemmed in. A re-pass went to Elliott, who tried a big burst, but succumbed to numbers.

A free to Cardiff saw Griffiths get in a grand return to touch well inside the Cardiff 25. Gloucester struggled hard to increase their score, and assailed the Cardiff lines hotly. The defence, however, prevailed. Egerton had another shot for goal from a mark, but was unsuccessful.

The City were still pressing when Gibbs relieved with a run and kick, which Egerton had to run back to field. This effort led to Cardiff invading the home territory, and Dyke might have put Williams in easily. He, however, tried to get through on his own, and was collared.

A visitor getting possession, he punted to the home goal, where Hollands received. He ran out a few yards, and punted straight to Bush, who manœuvred for position, and taking a good aim dropped a lovely goal.

Vears kicked off, and a spell of even play followed. The Gloucester forwards were playing a good game, but the backs could not do much, though Hall shone at times. Bush, with clever kicking, put Cardiff in the home half. The Welshmen several time tried to open out, but their efforts were not attended with much success.

Near the centre Pearce, Holford, and Griffiths took part in a pretty bit of combination, but Berry knocked-on when there was every chance of his going through. Operations, however, were confined to the Cardiff half, where Elliott and Baldwin put in some capital work. Cardiff were sorely pressed, and Williams being at fault near the line, Stephens picked up and scored a try, Egerton failing at goal.

Resuming, play was carried to the Gloucester half, where Williams, receiving from Dyke, put in a brilliant run. He was hampered by Egerton and collared, but giving a re-pass to Gibbs, the latter raced through and scored a good try. No goal resulted. Gibbs was tackled as he crossed the line, and injured his leg, having to be carried off the field.

When the game was resumed Brookman was brought out to three-quarter. Rain fell heavily, and made the conditions very bad. Cardiff, with a good rush, visited the home end, where there was some close forward work. A couple of players came to blows, but after being cautioned the game continued.

Soon afterwards Bush forced a minor with a fruitless drop at goal. Before the end Gloucester visited the Cardiff 25, but there was no further scoring.

RESULT :

Cardiff ... 3 goals (1d), 2 tries (20 points)

Gloucester 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)

REMARKS

Gloucester were beaten to-day by a team which was far too fast and clever for them behind the scrummage. Forward there was no great difference. The City pack worked heroically all through, and they had a gruelling time in the first half, especially when fighting against the strong wind.

For twenty minutes after the change of ends the home men fairly took the game in hand, and the two tries credited to Gent and Stephens was scarcely a sufficient reward for the repeated attacks made.

After this Cardiff came again, and Gibbs' third try and the dropped goal by Bush substantially increased Cardiff's total of points, and returned them winners by a handsome margin.

The high wind which prevailed spoiled the game to a large extent, but some brilliant play was occasionally shown by the Cardiff backs. Gibbs was the hero of the match, and his three tries were all splendid efforts.

It was a great misfortune for the International to be injured in scoring his last point, and general sympathy was expressed with the Cardiffian in his mishap.

The Gloucester forwards gave a good account of themselves, and no blame can be attached to them for the defeat sustained. They were not so successful as Cardiff in getting the ball in the scrums, but in other departments they quite held their own.

In the lines-out and footwork the City men shone repeatedly, and in this respect Johns, Berry, Holford, and Pearce were a quartette always noticeable. Cardiff had two or three new men in their ranks, but the pack proved first-class, Smith, Pugsley, and Westacott being often prominent.

At half-back, Gent once more proved his worth, and the acting City captain was one of the hardest worked men on the field. Stephens also did excellent work, and it was fitting that both the Gloucester half-backs should have scored tries.

Morgan was very smart at the scrum for Cardiff. Bush, though not shining with the brilliance we have seen him[*sic*], played an extremely clever game. In the three-quarter line Gloucester did not show much combination and compared unfavourably with the opposing line.

Hall got through a lot of sound work, and Elliott's bursts were dangerous. Baldwin was seen to better advantage on the wing, but Frank Smith had very little chance to shine.

The Cardiff quartette were tip-top, both collectively and individually, and though mistakes were not uncommon, they took a lot of stopping when on the move. Dyke and Spiller were excellent in the centre, kicking strongly and using capital judgment. Gibbs has already been referred to, whilst J. Williams was clean and smart in all that he did. R. Williams, Cardiff's new custodian, gave a first-class display, and on the day was better than Egerton, who, however, by no means did badly.

Despite the unfavourable conditions, the game provided plenty of good football and excitement. Some disappointment was naturally felt at the City's defeat, but there was no question victory went to the better team.

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A
GAME STOPPED BY WEATHER

At Cardiff Arms Park, in wet weather. Gloucester started, and play ruled mainly in the centre, the slippery nature of the ball making knocks-on frequent.

The Cardiff forwards, who were heeling out from nearly every scrum, gradually got into their opponents' territory, and Gloucester were penalised for off-side ten yards from their line, Duncan kicking a goal.

The Gloucester forwards then went away, and a wild pass by Tom Evans to Frank Wood on the Cardiff line let in Goddard with an unconverted try.

An injury to Tom Evans caused a delay, after which Cardiff pressed a good deal. Callaghan, picking up in the loose, passed to Tom Evans, who threw to Reardon, the latter scoring far out. Duncan failed with the place-kick.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Cardiff A 1 goal 1 try
Gloucester A 1 try

The second half was abandoned on account of the rain, and the ground being unplayable.

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