

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1910

## FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. SWANSEA

CITY PLAY EIGHT RESERVES

BIG SCORE BY THE WELSHMEN

It was a very disorganised side that Gloucester took to Swansea to-day for the return match with the All Whites, no fewer than eight reserves being called upon to fill vacancies caused by the absence of Hudson, Johns, Vance, Vears, Wyburn, Griffiths, Hollands, and Pearce.

Illness prevented Vance and Griffiths making the journey; Wyburn is suffering with a damaged ankle; and the others were kept away for business reasons. With such an unrepresentative team the City courted defeat, for it was too much to expect that the performance at Newport, under similar disadvantageous conditions, would be repeated. Swansea reorganised their three-quarter line, but the forwards were a powerful lot, and were expect to prove too clever and experienced for the visiting eight.

The teams were as follow : –

Gloucester. – W. Egerton, back; W. Washbourne, H. Barnes, W. Hall, E. Hall, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, J. Stephens (capt.), half-backs; H. Berry, G. Holford, W. Blackford, J. Jackson, F. Pegler, F. Welshman, N. Hayes, W. Nelmes, forwards.

Swansea. – F. Rees, back; F. Williams, W. J. Trew (capt.), H. Lewis, P. Hopkins, three-quarter backs; R. M. Owen, R. Jones, half-backs; T. Morgan, I. Morgan, G. Hayward, I. Williams, D. Davies, B. Davies, W. S. Goff, Rev. A. Davies, forwards.

Referee : Mr. E. John.

## THE GAME

The weather was brilliantly fine and the conditions were favourable for a fast open game. Swansea became aggressive immediately on the start and Hayward scored, Fred Rees converting.

Three minutes later the home forwards rushed to the line and Dick Owen wriggled over, Fred Rees again converting.

Swansea were having all the better of the play, being much too clever. Swansea made the game very open, and when going strongly Blackford intercepted and ran to the Swansea custodian before he passed, but the movement was checked.

The Gloucester forwards then did splendidly and rushed over the Swansea line, and Rees had to kick out of bounds to save his line. Swansea attacked again, and the forwards enabled Dick Jones to get over under the posts. Fred Rees converted. A minute later Frank Williams scored an unconverted try for Swansea.

Gloucester were continually on the defensive. Ivor Morgan then rushed over the line with a fine try for Swansea, and Rees again majorised. Gloucester were cutting up badly in all departments.

Twenty minutes from the start they were 23 points behind, but afterwards their forwards rallied to some effect. Washbourne made a strong burst on the left, only to be run to touch.

From the next scrum Gloucester heeled, but they lost rather than gained ground, Owen beating Dix easily. Still, the play of the visitors had improved.

Gloucester defended well after this and kept Swansea out for a time, but the Citizens' play was weak in other departments, and Swansea often came within an ace of scoring.

The visitors brought off one commendable round of passing, Barnes, Washbourne, and Hall handling, but the latter was brought down by Howell Lewis just when getting dangerous. The latter was injured in the tackle, but resumed, and play remained at midfield for some time.

Give and take play followed, and both sides were responsible for pretty play. Swansea's new arrangement behind was working splendidly, and fine play was seen amongst the backs.

The Gloucester men penned Swansea in their 25 for some time, and a lot of exchange kicking took place without any advantage to either side. The wind helped Swansea. Play was at half-way when the interval arrived, Swansea leading by lovely football.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Swansea ..... 4 goals 1 try  
Gloucester ..... Nil

Hayward's restarting kick was replied to well, and Gloucester were helped to an attacking position by the touch-finding of Egerton. Swansea continued to heel better than the opposing eight, but the wind was helpful to Gloucester on a couple of occasions. Swansea next scored through Ivor Morgan, who was repaid for quick following up, the ball bouncing into his hands while he was going at top speed. Rees converted for the fifth time.

After this Swansea did more attacking, and Stephens had all his work curt out to hold Jones in check. It was Barnes who eventually relieved by kicking to touch near the centre. Gloucester had a fine opportunity when there was scrummaging close to the Swansea line. They heeled but Dix fumbled, and Owen coming around quickly robbed him. The movement was carried on by Tom Morgan, who dribbled nearly half the length of the field. Play continued to go much in Swansea's favour, the home forwards in particular playing finely. Frank Williams was the next Swansea scorer, Rees failing to majorise from a point wide out.

The Gloucester forwards afterwards tried rushing the scrummages and they succeeded in a measure. One of them slung out a wide pass to Barnes, but he failed to hold, and Swansea were almost through again the next moment, Lewis only just failing.

In ensuing play Hall made a splendid burst, and Gloucester had another good chance, but they were not equal to the task. Play continued to be more even than it was before the interval, and Gloucester deserved a score, but only managed to force a minor. Another minor came to them immediately after, Lewis touching down after a long kick. Washbourne smartly cross-kicked, but Barnes, who took the ball, was in front, otherwise the Citizens would have done some more attacking. A kick down the field by Barnes caused an exciting race for the line. Trew got to the ball first and passed back for Rees to find touch.

RESULT :

Swansea .... 5 goals, 2 tries (31 points)  
Gloucester ..... Nil

REMARKS

It was a runaway match. Gloucester were beaten in all departments, but they were a better side after the interval than before it. Their forwards played pluckily, but the backs were all at sixes and sevens. Barnes was the best of the quartette, and Egerton defended well at full-back. Stephens and Dix were at a disadvantage owing to the forwards being beaten for possession.

GLOUCESTER A v. OLD BOYS

SCRAMBLING GAME AT KINGSHOLM

Gloucester A being without a fixture owing to Cheltenham A scratching, the Old Boys kindly filled the vacancy. The Seconds had the assistance of Hollands and Vears, who were unable to go to Swansea.

The weather was beautifully fine, but there was only a small crowd of spectators. The following were the teams : –

Gloucester A. – H. Hancock; J. M. Baldwin, L. Hamblin, W. Staunton, and J. Hamblin; L. Rudge and H. Pollard; G. Vears, D. Hollands, J. Price, W. D. Henderson, F. E. Quixley, S. Millard, H. Hatton, and W. Blackwell.

Old Boys. – J. H. Webb; A. H. Adams, A. T. Neale, P. Roach and E. Goatman; P. Rodway and W. P. Ellis; S. D. Lane, H. A'Bear, L. Peckover, H. L. Norman, P. Simmonds, A. Knight, J. Williams, and A. Workman.

Referee : Mr. A Brown.

Gloucester started, and by the aid of a well-judged kick by L. Hamblin early secure an attacking position. The ball coming out from a scrum, a round of passing gave Baldwin a good opening, but he failed to accept the transfer, and though recovering was hemmed in. The Old Boys relieved with a good rush, and Adams, with a smart run, got clean away, but passed badly, and a probable score was lost.

Soon afterwards Neale tested the Seconds' defence with another splendid run, but Hancock and another checked him. Gloucester eased the pressure with sharp rushes, and passing bouts took them close to their opponents' goal. Baldwin had a dash through for a try, but was collared outside. Then from the next scrum Rudge opened out and Pollard crossed, J. Hamblin failing at goal.

The Seconds had the better of the subsequent exchanges, but the passing attempted was not well done, there being a lot of fumbling. Eventually Baldwin brought off a clever dodgy run, clearing all but the full back, who effected a good tackle. Loose play by the Seconds allowed the Old Boys to rush half the length of the ground, but the game was quickly taken back, and the visitors conceded a minor.

Ensuing play was scrambling, but all in favour of the Seconds, who might have added to their score easily had proper judgment and accuracy in passing been exercised. At length J. Hamblin beat the defence cleverly and scored, but failed to add the extra points.

Subsequent play was keen, but there was an entire absence of finish to attacking movements. Gloucester came near scoring once or twice, but found the defence too good.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A ..... 2 tries  
Old Boys ..... Nil

The Old Boys re-started, and for the first five minutes they had the better of the exchanges. Scoring power, however, was lacking. Then Gloucester got well down, but the handling was too mechanical when the players were able to control the ball. During the next five minutes play was very scrambling, almost farcical. J. Hamblin got in one good run, but tried to do too much and was collared.

In the next minute the Seconds had the line at their mercy, but they fumbled badly on the line. A penalty fell to Gloucester in a favourable position, but only a minor resulted. Ensuing play was utterly devoid of incident, the whistle going continually. The Old Boys attacked on two occasions, but they were beaten off. Then a kick by Peckover was fielded by Baldwin, who, after a fine run, scored behind the posts. The goal-kick failed.

Gloucester played up better on the drop-out, and from a passing movement, initiated from the scrum, Baldwin was given possession, and with another splendid run the wing man cleverly beat the opposition and scored again. No goal resulted. Before the end Baldwin and Hollands added further tries, the latter being converted.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 1 goal, 5 tries (20 pts.)  
Old Boys ..... Nil