

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 1912

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v PONTYPOOL

THE CITY TEAM BEATEN

The City visited Pontypool to-day for the return game, but, as usual, were unable to take a representative team. Stanley Cook (returned to College) and Clarke (in Dublin for an examination) were not available, and C. Cook, Berry, and Meadows were also unable to play.

The Brothers Hamblin returned to their original positions at centre, F. Hayward appeared at full back, and the vacancies forward were filled by Griffiths and Mumford.

Pontypool, who held an unbeaten record at home, were short of Jack Jones, Rees Thomas, and E. Stephens.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – F. W. Hayward, back; A. Hudson (capt.), J. Hamblin, L. Hamblin, W. Washbourne, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, W. Hall, half-backs; G. Vears, G. Griffiths, G. Holford, J. Harris, C. Mumford, A. Lodge, N. Hayes, S. Smart, forwards.

Pontypool. – W. Vallis, back; S. Griffiths, J. R. James, J. H. Evans, S. Griffin, three-quarter backs; S. Prosser, R. Lloyd, half-backs; H. Jarman, T. Davies, S. Smith, T. Carter, A. E. Hockey, F. Andrews, G. Carr, G. Vater, forwards.

Referee : Mr. D. Davis (Cardiff).

THE GAME

The ground was in a dreadful state, patches of snow, slush, and mud making the surface sloppy and treacherous. The weather was very dull, and there was a small attendance.

Gloucester started, but the Pontypool forwards broke away and gained a footing in the visitors' 25. Clever passing by Griffiths and James looked dangerous, but a forward transfer stopped the movement. Gloucester had an anxious two minutes, but the forwards cleared brilliantly, Smart following up smartly and stopping Vallis from returning.

The Gloucester forwards got the best of the succeeding line-out, and Hayes was nearly over. The Pontypool forwards, working well together, got out of danger, and a free kick to the visitors gained them little ground. Dix was caught off-side, and Vallis made a grand touch punt to within a yard of the line. Gloucester got the best of the line out, but from the succeeding scrum the ball came out beautifully for Pontypool, and going all along the line Griffiths ran over in the corner. No goal resulted.

Pontypool opened out the game again immediately after, but the ball was filthy and almost impossible to hold. Pontypool rushed a scrum well, but they did not get very far, and the Gloucester forwards, working all together, got well past the centre. Hamblin got clear, but Vallis proved a stumbling block. Gloucester, however, had got a good footing in the Pontypool 25, and Dix whipped out a nice pass to J. Hamblin, who went over with a capital try after a spirited dash. No goal resulted.

Centre play followed for some time, but the condition of the ground and ball militated against correct football. The Pontypool front rank gradually worked their way down, however, and in spite of close marking Lloyd and Prosser opened out splendidly, and the home forwards went away with a great burst, which ended in Griffiths going away at top speed and scoring in the corner. No goal resulted.

A great combination rush by Pontypool looked terribly dangerous, but a forward kicked too hard, and the ball went dead. Pontypool had a free kick in a good position, but nothing resulted. Pontypool kept getting the ball in the scrum, and breaking up very quickly they gave the Gloucester backs a lot of trouble. An exchange of kicks left the game in the Gloucester 25, where again the Pontypool forwards showed grand form, and in a loose rush Jarman dived over under the posts with a try. No goal resulted.

Jarman received from the kick out and went straight for the line, but was stopped. Just before the interval a brilliant bit of passing by Hudson and J. Hamblin nearly resulted in a score, but the latter was pushed to touch.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Pontypool	3 tries
Gloucester	1 try

Immediately on resuming the Gloucester backs fumbled the ball, and L. Hamblin trying to run out kicked straight into Jarman's hands, and the latter beating his men well scored a clever try. No goal resulted.

Lloyd and Prosser were now giving the ball plenty of air, and Gloucester were kept busy defending. Two free kicks brought the necessary relief, and a smart dribble by Dix gained more ground, but the Pontypool forwards were better in the slush, and got the ball in the scrums. Hudson received and ran well, and the Gloucester forwards carried on the good work, but Vallis with a free kick sent them back.

Hockey was prominent with a good dribble, and centre play followed. Hall got away cleverly, and Vallis being upset, Gloucester got into the Pontypool quarter.

The Pontypool forwards rushed well, but off-side play lost the ground gained. Hall tried a long shot at goal, but the ball dropped short, and Pontypool touched down.

Hudson and Hall showed up with some dashing work, but the ground conditions were awful, and the kick and rush tactics adopted by Pontypool were the most effective under the circumstances. Eventually the Pontypool backs were set in motion, but Griffiths muffed his pass. Wheeling a scrum finely, Pontypool were again dangerous, and exchange kicks left them well in the Gloucester 25. An unpleasant little incident occurred here, the referee having to stop a punching match among the forwards.

The work, still in the Gloucester quarter, was terribly hot hereabouts. The Gloucester forwards rushed finely, but Vallis was safe and sound, and Pontypool, opening out, looked all over scorers, but Jack Evans overran the ball with the line at his mercy. Gloucester cleared cleverly, but Pontypool were quickly back on the attack again. Dix and Griffiths relieved, and Gloucester attacked for a short period, but were unable to make any headway, and Pontypool relieved to the centre. The game was waged to the end in the mud.

RESULT :

Pontypool 4 tries (12 points)
Gloucester 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

Taking into consideration the filthy state of the ground, anything like class football could hardly be expected, and in fact it was a poor game to watch. The Pontypool forwards were better suited by their own "muck heap," and had the best of the exchanges here. They certainly got the ball back much more frequently than Gloucester.

Lloyd and Prosser played a fine game behind the scrum, but their efforts were considerably discounted by the scramble which generally ensued on any attempt at passing. However, Pontypool turned their chances to account where occasion arose, and on the run of the day's play were good winners.