

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

FEBRUARY 7, 1903

FOOTBALL AND SPORT

GLOUCESTER v. NEWPORT

There was a large attendance at the match between the City Club and Newport on Saturday, but I hardly think that any one of those present were satisfied with what they saw. The turf was in splendid condition, and but for a boisterous wind it would have been an ideal day for a "rugger" match.

Newport are a very strong combination this season, and when it became known that they were at full strength it was generally anticipated that Gloucester would have to excel all previous displays of the present season to gain a victory.

Unfortunately for the home team, Fred Goulding, the ex-soldier, undoubtedly Gloucester's best forward on this season's form, had not sufficiently recovered from his recent accident to permit of his playing.

Pegler was brought into the team for Goulding, and Pearson and Lloyd reappeared in the Usksiders' ranks, the latter for the first time since the Swansea International was rather badly hurt.

A good deal of interest was centred in Pearson, as on his display in this match depended his chances of honours against Scotland, two members of the Welsh Selection Committee being present in an official capacity. Hodges was absent on the visiting side. Newport had a strong following.

The game opened fast, and some exciting play was witnessed. The tackling was somewhat vigorous, but seldom other than of a legitimate character, though the game was from beginning to end very keenly contested.

The Newport pack controlled the scrums for the greater part of the game, their heeling out at times being exceedingly smart, while occasionally the backs passed most brilliantly. Romans and "Whacker" Smith, and Lewis Smith played a grand defensive game; Pearson, the International, being pulled up once or twice in fine style.

The Gloucester three-quarters could not get into their stride, although the Smiths and Collett did well individually. Whenever the Newport halves gave their three-quarters the leather they handled it very smartly, but did not give a really first-class exhibition.

Just before the interval, Hillman opened out what proved to be a pretty movement, which let in Adams behind the posts, Lloyd adding the extra points. There was no further score up to the interval.

With the wind behind them it was thought that Newport would make matters warm for the Gloucester defence. But it was not so. At least for more than half of the second moiety the home team may be said to have held their own, the play being practically of the mid-field order. In defensive work Newport were very strong, while at half Lloyd was very smart.

Picking up in the open, Pritchard sprinted away finely towards the far corner, and showing his pursuers a clean pair of heels, he notched Newport's second try. The kick at goal failed. Shortly afterwards "Whacker" Smith, with a bit of luck might have scored. At a time when he was well placed, the ball looked as if it was going to the line, but instead it rebounded in the opposite direction.

Newport won by eight points to nil, and certainly deserved their victory. All round they were the more finished players, being far superior to Gloucester both at half and three-quarter. At the same time Newport did not play up to their reputation. Pearson, without being brilliant, gave a stylish exhibition. Owing to an injury, however, he loses his Scotch[sic] cap.

The Gloucester team played a hard game all through, but there was no cohesion among the three-quarters, and though the halves frequently got the ball out of the scrums they did not know what to do with it. Keys was frightfully selfish. Romans was a bit faulty at the start, but on the whole he played a grand game.

The teams were as follows : –

Gloucester : G. Romans (back), C. Smith, J. Stephens, G. F. Collett, and Lewis Smith (three-quarter backs), F. Keys and L. Morgan (half-backs), A. H. Click, F. Westbury, A. Hawker, A. Purton, F. Oswell, G. H. Smith, B. Parham, and Peglar (forwards).

Newport : D. J. Boots (back), C. E. Lewis, C. C. Pritchard, E. W. Gould, and T. W. Pearson (three-quarter backs). G. Ll. Lloyd and J. Hillman (half-backs), G. Boots, G. Spillane, E. Thomas, C. M. Pritchard, A. G. Brown, J. E. C. Partridge, H. G. Thomas, and S. Adams (forwards).

Referee : Mr. Gil Evans (Birmingham).

JC