

# THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1903

SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. SWANSEA

To the winners must be accorded high praise for one of the most delightful exhibitions of football seen at Kingsholm for many a long day. At all points Gloucester, though playing up pluckily to the end, were clearly outclassed by a combination which was as near perfection in every department as one could possibly obtain on the football field.

It was a typical example of the best standard of Welsh football, and a remarkable tribute to the all-round efficiency of the Swansea team. Six times across the line did not over-estimate the pronounced superiority of the Welshmen, and the most rabid partisan of the City team would be forced to admit that the All Whites thoroughly deserved their handsome victory. After this the Kingsholm ground will not be regarded with so much trepidation by Welsh teams.

Gloucester no doubt were handicapped in getting Parham injured so early in the game, but we question if the presence of the City vice-captain all through the game would have affected the scoring in the least degree.

On the whole Gloucester performed creditably forward, and got the ball a number of times. But the home backs suffered greatly in comparison with their opponents. The International division were in grand form, and in pace, cleverness, and general combination they simply overwhelmed the opposition. Several of the tries were beautifully worked for, and but for forward passes in several final transfers the try-getting would have been appreciably augmented.

The Gloucester backs did their best in defence, and accomplished a tremendous amount of stopping, but it was impossible to altogether successfully withstand the persistent attacks of the Welshmen.

On the Gloucester side Stephens, individually, did two men's work, and the City half-back certainly gave Swansea the most trouble. Morgan worked hard, but he could not get on terms with Owen, whose combination with Jones was perfect. At three-quarter there was little combination on the home side, but Smith and Vears did wonders in defence; whilst Hudson was also prominent in this department.

The Swansea third line has already been referred to in general terms; individually they were a great force, and all brought off something brilliant. Rees and Arnold worked together in perfect harmony in the centre, and the way they looked after their wing men was a treat to watch. What an object lesson to the home team!

Forward, Gloucester were best served by Goulding, Hawker, Purton, and G. Vears, though all packed well and did their fair share of pushing. The Swansea eight were wonderfully clever in the open, and displayed splendid judgment and resource.

At full-back, George Davies' exhibition was fully in keeping with the standard of excellence set up by the rest of the team, and on the day he outshone Romans. The City captain kicked well at times, but he was not in such good form as against Newport the previous week. The match was contested in the best possible spirit, and nothing occurred to mar the pleasure of one of the most exhilarating displays we have seen for some time. At the close of the game the Welshmen were heartily cheered.

RESULT :

Swansea ..... 2 goals (1 p.), 5 tries (23 points)  
Gloucester ..... Nil