

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1931

GLOUCESTER LOSE AFTER LEADING

GOOD SHOW BY WEAK SIDE

A SECOND HALF RECOVERY

Gloucester were seriously weakened for their return match with Llanelly at Stradey to-day, owing to the Rugby Union trial at Twickenham, where McCanlis, Wadley and Carpenter were engaged. J. Davies was also an absentee, and there were other defections.

The first game at Kingsholm resulted in a pointless draw after a disappointing display.

GLOUCESTER

BACK : L. Masters.

THREE-QUARTERS : L. Abbey, G. Orpin, V. Sheppard, and A. Spackman.

HALF-BACKS : F. Price and D. Meadows.

FORWARDS : E. Comley, T. Hiam, J. Hemming, L. Franklin, L. E. Saxby, H. J. Hyatt, N. Powell, and G. Welshman.

LLANELLY

BACK : T. Jones.

THREE-QUARTERS : Rev. J. D. Bartlett, S. Howells, E. Richards, and I. Charles.

HALF-BACKS : D. John and B. Jones.

FORWARDS : E. Jones, W. Lang, A. Parker, J. Williams, J. Thomas, E. Bryn Evans, C. Trehorne, and Ivor Morris.

THE GAME

Both sides fielded several reserves. The ground was somewhat on the soft side.

Llanelly had the better of the early play, and had a chance to go ahead when their three-quarters developed a passing movement in the Gloucester 25. Dai John, however, being hard pressed, was forced to kick to touch near the Gloucester line.

Gloucester got away with a splendid dribble, which took play to the Llanelly half. Here Meadows made a splendid opening, and kicked ahead to enable ABBEY to follow up and gather the ball a few yards from the line. The right wing dived over the line to give Gloucester the lead with a corner try, which Saxby failed to convert.

Llanelly made desperate efforts to get on terms but Gloucester showed a dour defence. G. Jones, and Dai John took shots for drop goals, but each sent the ball wide of the mark.

Llanelly were now doing practically all the attacking, but Masters was showing fine defensive powers and repeatedly gained the applause of the crowd for his splendid clearances.

Gloucester came again before the interval with splendid forward rushes in which Saxby and Franklin were prominent. Saxby indeed, up to the interval, was the finest forward on the field.

Half-time :

Gloucester	1 try
Llanelly	Nil

Early in the second half Llanelly drew level, I. CHARLES going over with a corner try in the first minute after the resumption. Dai John failed to convert.

Llanelly continued to attack with determination, and from a scrum in the Gloucester 25, B. Jones got away cleverly, and splendid passing by the home backs gave HOWELLS a chance. He broke through between the Gloucester centres and dashed over for a try to give Llanelly the lead, which they well deserved on the run of the play. D. John failed to convert.

The Gloucester forwards, led by Saxby, were proving a lively lot, but in this half the home forward play also improved. J. Thomas twice got away brilliantly for Llanelly, but on each occasion Masters was on the spot to avert any danger to his line.

Play for the last ten minutes of the game was in Llanelly's favour. Another brilliant movement by their backs enabled the Rev. Bartlett to race round Spackman for another try, which Dai John failed to convert.

Several Gloucester players made a vociferous protest to the referee against the awarding of these points, alleging that Bartlett had gone out of bounds after racing up to the spot where the try was scored. Mr. Thatcher, however, allowed the try.

RESULT :

LLANELLY 3 tries (9 points)
GLOUCESTER 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

On the Gloucester side, Masters, the young reserve full-back, was the hero of the game, despite his apparent frailty. He was everywhere, pulling up fierce Llanelly forward rushes, and tackling the speedy Llanelly backs, and fielding the muddy ball. He kicked a splendid length to touch from start to finish. Seldom has a more accomplished full-back been seen at Stradey Park. Amongst the Gloucester forwards, L. E. Saxby and L. Franklin were outstanding, while Abbey, on the wing, was to be commended upon his opportunism, which led to his side taking the lead in the first half. Llanelly were splendidly served by their half-backs, Jones and John, who outplayed the Gloucester pair.

RECORD UPHELD

EASTERN UNITED BEAT CITY SECONDS

Eastern United came unbeaten to Kingsholm this afternoon for their game with Gloucester United.

The home team pressed with vigorous loose rushes, but keen defence spoilt the attacks. A nice passing movement ended in Pittman breaking away and cross-kicking, but the ball was smartly gathered and the effort failed. Eastern United looked like scoring in subsequent attacks, and at length Baldwin broke through after a scrum near the home line. Greenman missed the kick.

The visitors continued to hold the upper hand. A scrum on the line looked dangerous, but Fowke cleared nicely.

Half-time :

Eastern United 1 try

Gloucester United Nil

Powerful rushes by the visitors severely tried the defence. Greenman broke away, and started up a fine movement, which carried the City team back on their line. Saint broke over in subsequent play. Greenman converted.

Gloucester United returned with a splendid dash down-field, but they lost the ball when nearly over. Eastern United continued to press in the closing stages. The United played up pluckily, but were unable to break away. A free kick saved Gloucester United when a scrum right on the line threatened.

RESULT :

EASTERN UNITED ... 1 goal 1 try (8 points)

GLOUCESTER UNITED N+il