

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1931

SWANSEA 6 Pts. GLOUCESTER NIL

GLOUCESTER FAIL TO ACCEPT CHANCES

KEEN GAME AT ST. HELEN'S

CITY FORWARDS DO WELL

Gloucester, who have done remarkably well in Wales this season, with a victory over Cardiff, and narrow defeats at Newport and Llanelli, visited St. Helens to-day, for the return match with Swansea. In the first game at Kingsholm, Gloucester, after a splendid first half, fell away as an attacking force, and suffered defeat by 1 goal 2 tries (11 points) to 2 goals (10 points).

The City club were well represented this afternoon, McCanlis returning to the side at centre, with Graham Davies, Roy James and Tanner being on the respective wings. The only change from the selected team was F. G. Merrett (Spartans and Gloucester United) for A. Carpenter in the forwards.

Swansea lacked the services of W. J. Trew (captain) and Harris (forward).

Teams :

GLOUCESTER

BACK : H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS : Roy James (capt.), M. A. McCanlis, Graham Davies, and C. C. Tanner.

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

FORWARDS : F. Wadley, F. G. Merrett, J. Hemming, Dr. Steele-Perkins, K. Smith, L. Franklin, L. E. Saxby, and J. Davies.

SWANSEA

BACK : L. J. Dempsey.

THREE-QUARTERS : Howie Jones, Idwal Rees, Harries, and Mervyn Snipper.

HALF-BACKS : Bryn Evans and J. D. Jenkins.

FORWARDS : T. Day, D. R. Prosser, Dai Parker, Joe White, D. Thomas, W. Davies, J. Rees, and E. Long.

Referee : Mr. George (Neath).

The weather was wintry, and a biting wind blew over the ground. The turf was on the hard side, and the usual playing area had to be shifted five yards on the grandstand side of the field.

THE GAME

Gloucester kicked off with a rather strong wind behind them, and immediately invaded the Swansea territory.

Good defensive play by the Swansea backs counteracted a good attack by G. Davies, and Tanner, and Dempsey found touch at mid-field.

A breakdown in a handling movement by the Swansea backs saw Wadley, Hemming, and Steele-Perkins carry play to the home 25, where they were pulled up by Dempsey.

Play again reached the centre, and Harries broke through cleverly. When faced by Boughton he passed to Long, who knocked on, and missed a good opportunity to score.

Almost immediately, Harries again made a clever break through, but was pulled up by McCanlis just in time.

Boughton gained temporary relief with a clever kick to touch, but Swansea were soon back in an attacking position.

SWANSEA OPEN THE SCORING

Jenkins was given a pass in the Gloucester 25 and he beat the defence by a clever use of the "dummy" and then transferred to HOWIE JONES, who had no difficulty in crossing wide out. The angle proved too difficult for D. Parker to improve the try.

This stirred up the Gloucester forwards, and Ken Smith led a rush to the Swansea 25 only to see the advantage lost by an off-side infringement. Once again Jones put them in a favourable position. A few minutes later he dropped for goal, the ball going wide of the mark, and allowing Swansea to concede a minor.

A sharp invasion of the Swansea territory was followed by a quick break through by McCanlis, but he was not properly supported, and the chance went astray. Swansea were penalised near the half-way line, but the shot for goal was badly directed, and went behind for a minor.

GLOUCESTER ATTACK DESPERATELY

For some time play ruled in the Swansea half, and when the Gloucester forwards heeled G. Davies looked like going through until Bateman[sic] brought him down. The visiting forwards at this stage heeled the more smartly, but the home defence was unbeatable. For fully five minutes Gloucester swarmed on the Swansea line, and tried hard to equalise. The fine Swansea defence was, however, equal to the occasion.

Once Price went away and was almost though, but was brought down a couple of yards out. Here Swansea gathered and Howie Jones made a dash along the touchline. He beat Tanner, but when facing Boughton passed forward and Harris was recalled. A visiting forward got away with a fine rush, and Meadows joining in the movement play was transferred to mid-field. Here G. Davies gave Tanner a glorious chance, but unfortunately the wing failed to accept the transfer with the defence practically beaten.

HALF-TIME :

SWANSEA 1 try
GLOUCESTER Nil

THE SECOND HALF

Upon resuming Swansea were almost immediately penalised for a scrum infringement, and Davies found touch near the home 25.

Price opened out smartly for Gloucester, but Davies was at fault in not accepting his transfer, and Swansea by good footwork, got well into the Gloucester quarters, only to see their good work nullified by fine combination among the Gloucester backs.

The City forwards were, at this stage, heeling much more cleanly than the home pack, and Price lost no opportunity in putting his backs in motion. Sterling defence, however, prevailed, and gradually Swansea got back to their opponents' territory.

Bryn Evans initiated a movement which should have brought a score, but Long, who had joined in the movement, held on too long, and was tackled five yards out.

The Gloucester defence was remarkably good, as, although Swansea flung the ball about plentifully, there was always a visitor in position to bar their progress.

A determined effort by Jack Rees looked like breaking down the defence, but Boughton brought off a great tackle, and staved off danger.

WELSHMEN INCREASE THEIR LEAD.

The visitors, however, had a narrow escape, as from a penalty Dai Parker placed the ball inches outside the post; while a similar effort a minute later was just too low. This brought Gloucester much needed relief, and good handling by Davies and McCanlis gained considerable ground. The wing men, however, failed to accept the transfer, and Swansea taking advantage established a footing in the Gloucester 25. Here a penalty was successfully taken by D. PARKER, to increase Swansea's lead.

POOR HANDLING

McCanlis made several determined bursts, and placed Gloucester in a good position, but chances were frittered away by poor handling, thus enabling Swansea to regain neutral territory. Swansea were taken unawares when Meadows went through on his own, with no other player in attendance. Dempsey made a dive for his legs and succeeded in bring him down a few yards out.

Again Gloucester had a chance on the right, after J. Davies had broken away, but Tanner was unable to accept an awkward pass.

Gloucester were hard pressed for a time, but Tanner broke away and made a good effort to beat Dempsey.

RESULT :

SWANSEA 1 goal (p.) 1 try (6 Pts.)

GLOUCESTER Nil