

Match Report of the Gloucester v. London Welsh game played on Friday 28 March, 1902.

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1902

YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER V. LONDON WELSH

The first visit of the London Welshmen to Gloucester attracted a big crowd to Kingsholm on Friday afternoon. The visitors, who are on tour, brought down a powerful side, the three Welsh Internationals - Llewellyn, Gabe, and E. Morgan - appearing at three-quarter. Wallace Watts, the old Newport forward, also found a place in the team. Gloucester were short of Click, but otherwise the City club was at full strength.

The weather conditions and ground were perfect, and the game was productive of one of the best exhibitions of football seen at Kingsholm this season. Gloucester had to face a strong sun in the first half, but thanks to smart play by Goddard and G. Hall, the City team had the better of the opening stages. Then Llewellyn, intercepting a pass, ran beautifully to Romans but the Gloucester captain brought the Welsh International down from behind on the quarter line.

Play fluctuated after this exciting incident, but a smart follow-up by George Smith gave Gloucester a good opening. The City forward took the ball nicely on the bounce in front of the Welsh custodian (Thomas), but he threw forward with no further opposition to beat.

The ball was given plenty of air, and some exceedingly clever football was exhibited on both sides. Fielding a kick by "Whacker" Smith, Morgan came down the touch at a rare pace, but just as he looked likely to clear the defence he was pushed into touch.

Gloucester relieved slightly, and gradually worked into their opponents' end. here Goddard was started by G. Hall, but the former's pass was cleverly intercepted by F. D.

Evans, who came straight down to Romans, when he passed to Williams, the latter crossing in a good position. Morgan, however, failed at goal.

On the re-start Gloucester forwards showed up with some splendid combined work, but they were stopped on the 25 line. The Welshmen quickly worked out, and some fine passing amongst their forwards and backs made things hot for the home team. Hodge was only just held outside, and a little later Llewellyn made a big attempt to round Lewis Smith, but he was forced into touch.

Subsequent play was evenly contested, and was full of interest. Williams once dribbled over for the Welshmen and scored, but he fouled Romans and the try was disallowed. Goddard, G. Hall, Collett, and Stephens showed up prominently for Gloucester after this, and Morgan made two dashing sprints for the visitors, but the interval arrived with the Welshmen still leading by a try to nil.

Gloucester started the second half in fine style, and a splendid punt by G. Hall placed the home team in a good position for scoring. The City half-backs were not long in taking advantage, for a short pass by Hall to Goddard saw the latter dash down the blind side of the scrum. Cutting inside a couple of opponents, Goddard transferred neatly to "Whacker" Smith, who dodged Gabe and Thomas, and ran over with a splendid try. Romans converted, and Gloucester led by two points.

This success worked a wonderful difference in the game, for as Gloucester improved the Welshmen fell off in their play. A tricky piece of play by Stephens set Lewis Smith going, and there was a loud shout when the popular left winger beat Llewellyn. Lewis, however, was pulled down from behind in attempting to beat the full-back.

Gloucester attacked hotly now, but an ill-judged pass by Goddard was snapped up by Llewellyn, who reached the centre before being pushed into touch by Romans. A minute later a fine bout of passing by the visiting backs gave Llewellyn a clear run in, but the latter failed to take Gabe's pass. This was the Welshmen's last chance, for the remainder of the game Gloucester were "all over" their opponents.

The City forwards were seen to great advantage, and the backs too did good work. "Whacker" Smith just missed a corner try from a pass by Goddard, but soon after Purton scored from a line-out, Romans failing at goal. Collett missed dropping a goal almost immediately on the kick-out by inches, and a little later "Whacker" Smith lost a certain try through knocking on after a beautiful bit of running and passing. "Whacker," however, made no mistake with his next chance, for taking the ball from G. Hall he dashed over in the corner with Morgan hanging on his back. Romans again failed.

To the finish Gloucester had all the game, and Parham added another unconverted try as the result of a splendid opening by C. Hall from a line-out. Just before the end Silcox (one of the Welsh half-backs) had to retire with an injury to his knee.

RESULT:

Gloucester.....1 goal, 3 tries (14 points)

London Welsh.....1 try (3 points)