

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1904.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. CARDIFF.

CITY TEAM IN WALES.

"THUS BAD BEGINS ——" "

Gloucester had to appear at Cardiff to-day minus the services of J. Stephens and J. Harrison, two clever players whose absence considerably weakened the City back division. In other respects the team was representative, but the prospects of recording a victory over the Welsh Metropolitans were very remote. Cardiff had a powerful side out, Dr. Timms appearing at centre three-quarter with Gabe, with Cecil Biggs and Arthur Williams (late of Penygraig) on the respective wings. Bush, however, was a notable absentee, and his substitute was not known until the morning of the match. The G.W.R. excursion to Newport and Cardiff was largely patronised, but there was an absence of the old-time excitement the annual visit to Cardiff once created. The teams were : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	CARDIFF.
G. Romans (capt.)	Backs.	F. Young
T. Leonard	Three-quarter	C. Biggs (capt.)
C. Smith	backs.	Dr. Timms
E. Hall	"	R. T. Gabe
A. Hudson	"	A. Williams
D. R. Gent	Half-Backs.	R. David
C. H. Robinson	"	F. Davies
F. Goulding	Forwards.	W. Neill
B. Parham	"	J. McIntyre
A. Hawker	"	G. Northmore
W. Johns	"	D. Westacott
G. Vears	"	T. Franks
F. Westbury	"	W. Ham
F. Pegler	"	E. Rumbeloy
G. Matthews	"	H. Harding

THE GAME.

The weather conditions were unfavourable, heavy rain falling and the light being very bad. F. Davies took the vacancy at half for Cardiff.

Gloucester won the toss, and Neill started for the Welshmen twenty minutes late. Romans returned well, and play opened in the Gloucester half. The Cardiff forwards heeled well at the start, but the passing came to nothing. Gent robbing David dribbled nicely, but Timms stopped the movement. Gloucester gained further ground by useful footwork, but the home backs replied with sharp passing, and Biggs ran close to the line before being upset. Open play followed, ending in Davis picking up smartly and passing to Gabe, who scored a good try. The place-kick failed.

Resuming, Cardiff at once gained a good position, but Timms fumbling a pass, Leonard and Smith dribbled down to Biggs, who was at once floored. Working well together Gloucester made headway, and Hall getting the ball took a flying kick across the ground. Hudson beat Williams smartly, and the ball being taken over the line Hudson scored an equalising try. Romans failed at goal.

Re-starting play was fast, but the greasy ball spoiled several promising movements. Smith and Gent combined in clever work, but Young sent them back beautifully. The same player stopped a dangerous move a minute late, and Cardiff set up a sharp attack. Timms, however, was at fault with an open goal. A scrum ensued in close proximity to the Gloucester line, where Gent failed to pick up, and David scored easily. The try remained unconverted.

Gloucester played up strongly on resuming, Smith doing some good spoiling work. The Cardiff forwards, however, were smart in the scrums, and heeled continually. Gabe once ran grandly, but Williams was thrown to touch. Gloucester were hotly pressed for a few minutes, but Smith and Westbury brought relief. Then Davies, fielding in the open, ran from the centre, but lost a try through not passing.

Cardiff continued to have all the game, but mistakes in passing enabled Gloucester to gain relief. A lovely run by Gabe took the International to the line, where the ball slipped out of his hand, thus losing a certain try.

Wheeling a scrum the City forwards came away in promising fashion, but David took the ball from their toes, and sent to touch. Gloucester worked out through Gent, and a loose forward rush resulted in Young being forced to touch at his 25.

Scrambling play ended in Cardiff reaching the centre, where an attempt at passing by Gloucester was stopped by Biggs. Matthews led a forward rush back, and David was floored in trying to save. Biggs, however, saved the situation.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Cardiff 2 tries
Gloucester 1 try

Goulding started the second half, and Biggs failing to field, play opened in the Cardiff half. The home front rank, with a grand wheel and loose rush, came away to beyond the centre, where David marked. Hudson replied to the kick to midfield, where some hot work was witnessed.

Gloucester got the better of loose forward play, and Johns and Westbury dribbled down well. Aided by mistakes by the Cardiffians the visitors further improved their position. Ground, however, was lost through off-side play. A penalty to Gloucester saw Romans find touch near the Cardiff line with a magnificent kick, but the home team benefited almost immediately by a similar kick, and the game was taken to midfield.

After Gent had misfielded Robinson recovered by punting to touch, and then Hudson, following up a kick, floored Williams near the Cardiff line. Gloucester attacked strongly, but weak half-back play lost the position and Cardiff rushed right to the other end.

Close and exciting football followed, out of which Gloucester came out best. Hudson, who was doing fine work, upset Young at midfield, and Gloucester appeared to have an opening. Cardiff, however, saved, and mistakes by the City backs let the Welshmen gain a footing in their 25; and from a forward rush Franks was credited with a try, though Smith appeared to have touched down first. No goal resulted.

Following the drop-out Gent was prominent with a smart breakaway, but Robinson made a sad mess of it, and Biggs nearly scored. Ensuing play was of a very scrambling character, but Gabe was nearly through once after a strong burst.

Robinson made another blunder of a pass from Gent, and Cardiff got very close again. Gloucester worked out to beyond the quarter line, where Biggs picked up smartly and, racing hard, sent Gabe over with a fourth try. Biggs again failed.

Gloucester played up pluckily on resuming, and near the centre Hudson gathered and made a splendid dash for [the] corner. He, however, just failed to reach the mark, slipping a few yards outside. This was the last item of interest.

RESULT :

Cardiff	4 tries (12 points)
Gloucester	1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

Cardiff were clearly the superior team, but at times they were worried considerably, and with ordinary luck the City team would have had a couple more tries.

The Cardiff forwards had a big pull in weight, and in the first half repeatedly got possession. The back play, however, was faulty, Timms making several very bad blunders. Gabe was easily the best of the Welsh three-quarters, and he gave the visitors a lot of trouble.

At half, Gent got through a lot of work, but Robinson was inconsistent, and missed several passes when there were chances of opening out the game. Hudson was the shining light in the Gloucester third line, and should be certain of his place in future. "Whacker" Smith tackled well, and staved off several dangerous attacking movements.

At full-back Romans gave a fine display, and quite equalled Young. The Gloucester captain kicked finely at times, and his defence was good. He certainly had no chance with either try scored by Cardiff.

GLOUCESTER A v. CARDIFF A.

" ———BUT WORSE REMAINS BEHIND."

The fixtures with Cardiff A have always been among the most attractive on Gloucester A's card. On Saturday afternoon the two Second strings met once more on Kingsholm, in dull but dry weather. Alterations had taken place in both teams, but they eventually lined out for a late start as follows : —

Gloucester A. — J. Watts, back; L. Boone, J. Romans, H. Cook, and T. Adams, three-quarter backs; H. Smith and W. Hyam, half-backs; F. Pyart (captain), H. Quixley, A. Purton, R. R. Sly, A. White, H. Wixey, H. Taylor, and H. Lane, forwards.

Cardiff A. — A. W. Jones, back; J. McCreith (captain), B. Williams, E. Jones, and B. Gunstone, three-quarter backs; T. Franks and W. Morgan, half-backs; Jennings, Pullen, Davies, Lewis, Stroud, John, Lamey, and Edwards, forwards.

Referee : Mr. F. Abbey.

Gloucester A started and from the first scrum the visiting three-quarters got off, but the homesters' defence spoiled things for them. Gloucester got possession and rushed right down to the Cardiff line, but a good chance of scoring was lost.

Cardiff were in turn looking dangerous, when Romans found touch nicely. Then the visitors adopted successful tactics and reached the home line. They were nearly over, and a scrum five yards out was ordered. Right in front of the goal Gloucester A offended, and from the penalty McCreith put Cardiff three points ahead.

Restarting, a spell of even play was witnessed, and gradually the homesters worked the leather up the field, and were awarded a free on the centre line. Purton took the kick and gained more ground. Gloucester, thus placed in a more favourable position, would have lost their advantage but for a clever performance by Romans, who accepted a nasty one and found touch in capital fashion.

The Cardiff 25 was now the scene of operations. Smith picked up from the scrum and passed to Hyam, who failed to accept. Not to be denied, the Gloucester eight got down in the left-hand corner, and had hard lines in not getting over. Then came an award of a penalty as the result of off-side play by a Cardiffian, and Romans put in a splendid kick from a difficult position. Watts put in a good kick, and Gloucester A still kept up the pressure.

The game was sufficiently exciting, and the hopes of the home partisans ran high when Romans once more put his side in an enviable position, but the effort was spoiled by a knock-on. Cardiff made desperate efforts to relieve, but ineffectually. Cook spoiled their advance with a clever kick, and the ball was still kept in the right portion of the field from the home team's point of view.

At last the home defence was called upon, and tricky play by the visiting three-quarters saw them almost in. An anxious moment was safely tided over, but things began to look dangerous again.

The situation was relieved by a Cardiff three-quarter fumbling. Jones made a mark, and Cardiff were again aggressive but Cook helped the homesters up the ground with an excellent touch-finder. Before the interval the home line was once again threatened by the visiting three-quarters, Williams almost eluding the defence.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Cardiff A 1 goal (p)
Gloucester A Nil

After "lemons" the game was for a while in the centre. Hyam kicked in splendid style down the line, but Jones, the visiting custodian, was "all there," and saved in an emergency in a praiseworthy manner. A long kick came to Watts, who failed to reach it, and the ball went in touch in the Gloucester 25.

Following this the homesters were penalised, and a powerful kick just missed scoring. The visitors maintained the pressure, and working up Lamey got over in the right-hand corner. The attempt at conversion was a poor one.

Gloucester recovered some lost territory, and worked their way into a more advantageous position. The old story of opportunities missed was, however, repeated. A temporary lull was occasioned by a Cardiffian being hurt, but he resumed.

The light was now becoming very bad. A race for the Gloucester line from mid-field saw the opposing team first home, and Morgan placed another unconverted try to the Welshmen's credit. This put the eventual result beyond question.

The shades of eve were falling fast, but through the gathering gloom Cardiff could still be discerned on the offensive. Once Hyam found touch with a twister, and brought some relief. Virtue, however, had apparently departed from the homesters, and the Welshmen had the best of the argument.

A last effort by the Gloucesterians brought them by means of a splendid forward rush into the Welshmen's 25, and Sly figures prominently in preventing the advance of the visitors. Hyam evaded a trio of Cardiffians, and the homesters looked like scoring a moment later, and the Cardiff men were off again, and another try was registered against Gloucester by E. Jones. There was no conversion.

Immediately after this a rush by Cardiff took the ball over the line, but it was touched down in time. On the call of time Jennings dropped a goal for Cardiff.

RESULT :

Cardiff A 2 goals (1d, 1p), 3 tries (16 points)
Gloucester A Nil

REMARKS.

At half-time no one would have prophesied so heavy a defeat for the City Seconds as eventually was meted out to them, for thus far they had obtained quite their share of play, and indeed should have had points to their credit. The deterioration that afterwards set in was marked, and the visitors soon became winners "all over."

For Gloucester A. Watts, Hyam, Sly, and J. Romans were especially prominent, whilst the three-quarters and Jones, the custodian, were the particular stars on the visiting side.