

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1904.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. PENARTH.

THE WELSHMEN DEFEATED.

A POOR GAME.

Penarth, who have provided the City team with some rattling good games, and more than once proved victorious, were the visitors to Kingsholm this afternoon.

Gloucester fielded short of Harrison (injured in the County match) and Matthews, whilst Penarth played full strength.

The teams were : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	PENARTH.
G. Romans (capt.)	Backs.	J. C. M. Dyke
L. Vears	Three-quarter	E. W. Williams
C. Smith	Backs.	R. C. Thomas
E. Hall	"	J. Samuel
T. Leonard	"	J. A. Gibbs
D. R. Gent	Half-Backs.	R. A. Gibbs
J. Stephens	"	S. Smith
F. Goulding	Forwards.	E. Hamilton
A. Hawker	"	H. Hill
B. Parham	"	W. Jenkins
A. Purton	"	L. S. Thomas
W. Johns	"	W. Matthews
G. H. Smith	"	E. C. Morel
G. Vears	"	T. Bartlett
F. Pegler	"	D. Jones

Referee : Mr. H. Smith (Bristol).

THE GAME.

Penarth started in the presence of a moderate attendance, the return going to touch inside the home half. The visitors opened with a sharp burst, which was successfully stopped, and then followed an exchange of kicks ending in the ball going out of play at the centre.

Carrying the scrum, the City forwards got off with a grand dribble, Goulding and Hawker leading, and the Penarth end was visited. Gent soon started his backs moving, but Vears was pulled down by Williams. He managed to pass pack inside, but "Whacker" Smith was bored to touch.

Loose play followed, ending in R. Gibbs getting away nicely. He punted over Romans' head and ran on and again recovered the ball, but he was overtaken by Leonard, who effected a good tackle when a score seemed imminent. Penarth, however, secured a good position. The forwards heeling, Gibbs nearly broke through.

Weak kicking by Leonard and Romans caused Gloucester some anxiety, but Gent eventually punted out well. The City forwards, however, got off-side, and the ball was ordered back to within a few yards of the Gloucester line. E. Hall was instrumental in gaining relief with a clever bit of work, but Dyke marked in smart style. Immediately after, however, Penarth forced a minor as the result of a kick over the line.

Ensuing play favoured Penarth, who attacked strongly. Stephens cleverly got his side out of a difficulty, and then the forwards worked out to mid-field. Gloucester got near the 25, where Gent picked up and essayed a drop at goal. The ball hit the crossbar and rebounded into play, where Dyke secured. He was, however, immediately tackled, and was lucky in getting his side out by touching down. The kick-out was well returned, and then Parham gained a lot of ground by a good punt to touch.

For an infringement Penarth were penalised and Romans found touch well near the Welsh 25. Penarth quickly worked out, but Hall was again prominent with some footwork, dribbling through and collaring Williams smartly. Gloucester tried passing, and Hall came across and passed to C. Smith, who sent out to Vears, but the latter's cross-kick was not particularly well-judged, and no ground was gained.

Wheeling finely, the Penarth forwards came away with a dangerous rush which was not stopped till mid-field was reached. Gent here passed out nicely, and Hall fed Leonard, but Williams pulled the ex-Collegian to touch. Ensuing play was scrambling, and there was not much in it. For palpable off-side play Penarth were penalised, and no-charge being allowed, Romans made a grand attempt to land a goal, only missing by a few feet.

Restarting, Penarth showed up strongly forward, and a fine burst took them near the line, where a forward only missed a try by losing the ball. Soon afterwards the Welshmen forced another minor.

Succeeding play was all in favour of Penarth, and a pretty passing movement saw Williams make a fine run down touch. He eventually punted towards the goal, where "Whacker" Smith secured and ran out. He passed to Romans on the 25-line, but the captain was soon stopped. The Welshmen got on the attack again, and a wide pass to J. Gibbs enabled the latter to score easily, no Gloucester man being within yards of him. The place-kick failed.

Romans dropped out, and L. Vears taking the return, smartly ran down touch beyond the centre. He passed wildly, however, and the ball went to touch. Beautiful wheeling by the Penarth front enabled the visitors to make a dashing burst, but L. Vears saved in good style.

Hall and Leonard robbed the opposing backs of possession and dribbled down to Dyke, but they over-ran the ball. The same mistake was made a minute later, and the play generally was very poor.

Gloucester eventually got down, and near the centre Gent sent Stephens off on the blind side of the scrum. The latter dodged cleverly and then passed wide, where a forward picked up. Hall was the next recipient of the ball, and feinting cleverly he broke past Dyke and scored a smart try. The kick at goal failed.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 1 try
Penarth 1 try

Gloucester resumed, and the return being charged down play opened in the Penarth half. The City team gained ground from a line-out, the forwards using their feet well. Then a passing movement sent the ball to Leonard, who broke through strongly and then passed to "Whacker" Smith. The latter transferred to Vears, but the wing man just failed to get through.

Play hovered on the Penarth line for a brief space, but the visiting forwards relieved with a wheel. Romans, with some splendid kicks, gave his side a big advantage, but Penarth got out of a difficult situation in smart style. Still the general play was lacking in finish.

G. Smith came through from a scrum very well, but kicked too hard, and Thomas securing punted to touch. From the throw-out Hawker gathered and passed out to Hall, who kicked well down, the ball eventually rolling to touch. Penarth made a few yards, but for off-side play by Smith the visitors were penalised, and from near the touch-line Romans placed a lovely goal.

The Welshmen re-started, and there was a series of exchanges, ending in Vears touching down. On the drop-out the Gloucester backs showed up with some passing, but "Whacker" Smith failed to break through. Gent got a kick charge down after this, but he recovered the mistake and checked the Penarth forwards smartly. Ensuing play was vigorous, and the referee had to interfere between Hawker and a visitor. Resuming, Gloucester tried to open up the game, but with little success.

The Penarth forwards continually carried the scrums, and their loose rushes were difficult to stop. Mid-field was the scene of operations for some time, until Penarth became dangerous with splendid forward work. The City pack dribbled out, and in the open Hall secured and transferred wide to Vears. The ball, however, screwed round, and the wing man had no chance when he got the ball.

Penarth were twice penalised for off-side play, and Gloucester gained ground as a result of the kicks. As the result of a mis-field by Thomas, Parham rushed up and fielded cleverly. He made a strong bid for the line, but was safely held. Hawker, a little later, got off with a strong burst, and set the three-quarters in motion. Vears, the last to receive, tried hard for the corner, but was unsuccessful.

Immediately after the ball came across smartly to the other wing, and here Leonard had a dash. Williams, however, stopped the Gloucesterian in time. The City were playing with more spirit now, and the Penarth defence was sorely taxed. The visiting forwards gained slight relief, but Gibbs getting off-side, Romans placed another penalty goal with a grand shot.

The game to the end was vigorously contested, and just before the close R. Gibbs put in a capital effort and looked like scoring, but Hall came to the rescue at the critical moment.

RESULT :

Gloucester 2 goals (p), 1 try (9 points)
Penarth 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

To-day's game was not one to impress spectators. It was a poor display of football at its best, and at times degenerated into a regular rough-and-tumble. Certain Penarth players lost their tempers, and resorted to tactics which more than once looked likely to take a bad turn. Fortunately the rival captains were able to keep the men apart, and nothing serious resulted.

Penarth, who have accomplished some good performances this season, proved a stronger side than was anticipated, and Gloucester found them a pretty warm lot to dispose of. Forward, the Welshmen had a distinct pull, for they were stronger in the scrums and played with greater dash in the open. They wheeled especially with great effect, and the home backs had some anxious moments.

Both sides, however, lacked scoring ability, and numerous chances went a-begging. The try obtain by Penarth was a rather simple affair, and one looked in vain for the Gloucester defenders.

The equalising point came before the interval, and it was just as well, for it served as an encouragement to the City after the change of ends. Gloucester certainly showed great improvement in the second half, and at times they attacked strongly, but their efforts to score were nipped in the bud at the crucial moment.

For Gloucester, Hawker, though a marked man, put in some sterling work, and Goulding and Gordon Vears were conspicuous for some dashing play. The latter was one of the keenest men in the pack, and was always on the ball. None too well served by the forwards, Gent experienced considerable difficulty in making openings, but he got the ball away at times in remarkable fashion, and was frequently in evidence in stopping rushes.

Stephens showed nippiness when opportunities came his way, and it was he who paved the way to the try scored. Smith, on the opposite side of the scrum, continually infringed the rules, and he was principally the cause of the visitors' defeat. Gibbs was individually good, and made several capital runs.

At three-quarter the combination on either side was not particularly smart. It is some satisfaction to Gloucester, however, to find they have such a useful reserve centre as E. Hall. The young West Ender had a severe test to-day, but he came through the trial with distinct credit. He did a number of smart things, and his try was skilfully worked for.

Hall also displayed good judgment in kicking, and his defence was fairly sound. "Whacker" Smith worked hard, as usual, and his efforts in attack deserved better result. His tackling was great.

On the respective wings, Leonard had more chances, and twice he brought off strong dashes, handing off well. Vears also made praiseworthy efforts to score. Thomas and J. Gibbs played a strong game for Penarth, and Williams also did well.

Romans treated the spectators to a splendid exhibition, his kicks always being characterised with length and judgment, whilst his fielding was faultless. Dyke did moderately on the opposite side.

Gloucester, on the whole, were lucky to emerge from the contest with a six points' win, and they will have to show better form to win at Bristol next week.