THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1904.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER *v.* PENARTH.

THE CITY TEAM BEATEN.

In the absence of any communication cancelling the match, the Gloucester team made the journey to Penarth to fulfil the return engagement with the Welshmen.

W. Hyam appeared at full-back in place or Romans, who could not get away from business, and A. Purton took the place of G. Matthews.

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	PENARTH.
W. Hyam	Backs.	J. C. M. Dyke
C. Smith	Three-quarter	E. Williams
E. Hall	backs.	R. C. Thomas
J. Harrison	"	J. Samuel
A. Hudson	"	H. F. Shattock
J. Stephens	Half-Backs.	R. A. Gibbs
D. R. Gent	"	S. Smith
W. Johns	Forwards.	E. Hamilton
B. Parham	"	H. Hutchings
A. Hawker	"	W. Jenkins
F. Pegler	"	F. Kirkby
G. Vears	"	L. S. Thomas
H. Quixley	"	W. Matthews
A. Purton	"	T. Bartlett
F. Westbury	"	W. Stickler

Referee : Mr. J. B. MATTHEW.

THE GAME.

The ground, though slippery on top, was in fair condition, but a late start was made.

Penarth won the toss and Johns started, Dyke replying to Gent, who returned. The City forwards were prominent with a good rush, but Penarth retaliated. Harrison picked up cleverly in the loose and started a bout of passing. Hall and Smith handled neatly, and the latter punted finely to Dyke, who was stopped close to his line.

Penarth worked out, but a flying kick by Gent sent the ball to Dyke, who was beautifully tacked by Smith under his goal. Penarth were in a serious position, but a nice kick cleared to Hyam, who made his mark. Purton failed at goal.

Penarth were penalised, and Harrison, with a kick, found touch well inside the home quarter. Neat play by Stephens further improved Gloucester's position, but a useful forward burst gained relief.

Gent twice sent to touch, when the Penarth forwards got away. Ensuing play was contested in the home half, the Gloucester front doing well. A brilliant round of passing by the Gloucester backs looked promising, but Hudson was pressed to touch close in. Then Gloucester twice forced minors from kicks over the line.

Playing well together Gloucester forced the pace, and Harrison was nearly through after neat passing. The City team continued to attack desperately, and the forwards were nearly over in a bunch. Penarth luckily relieved, and a loose forward rush took them beyond the centre for the first time.

Gloucester quickly changed the venue, and Stephens, with clever work down touch, again placed the home lines in danger. Loose dribbling gave Penarth the advantage, but Smith saved cleverly. Smart handling by the Gloucester backs gained considerable ground, and Hall with a beautiful touch-finder sent the game close to the Penarth line.

Gibbs dribbled nicely to the quarter flag, where play hovered for the next few minutes. The Gloucester forwards were doing splendidly in all departments, and heeled cleverly.

Gent was wonderfully smart in getting the ball away, and beat Gibbs continually. Some very smart movements were displayed in the third line, and the Penarth defence was sorely pressed. Gloucester had all the game, and play was seldom out of their half.

A nice effort by Hall gave Hudson a possible chance, but the wing man could not get clear. Then Thomas put in a strong run for Penarth, but slipped when looking dangerous. Centre play followed, and the home team passed well, but Smith checked the movement.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester ..... Nil
Penarth ..... Nil

Penarth re-started, the ball bouncing to touch. The Gloucester forwards, breaking away, dribbled past all opposition, and there was every chance of a score. "Whacker" Smith, however, was robbed of possession at the critical moment by Thomas.

A big punt by Gibbs sent the ball to Hudson, who kicked straight to touch at the centre. The same player miskicked a minute later, and this led to a sharp attack on the Gloucester lines. The defence, however, was grand. Gloucester relieved slightly, but Penarth were quickly back again, and after clever passing Williams was only pulled down in the nick of time by Hyam. A couple of minutes later Samuel brought off a clever movement, and following neat transfers Gibbs ran over with a good try. Dyke landed a goal.

Resuming, the Gloucester forwards shone with a good dash, but Thomas sent them back with a powerful punt. Penarth were now playing with great determination, and were beating Gloucester forward. Two minors fell to the Welshmen in quick succession, one being a narrow escape for a try.

By dint of loose forward work Gloucester gained more favourable quarters, but Penarth came back with brilliant passing, Williams being finely tackled by Hyam a couple of yards outside.

The game continued to be contested at a fast pace, but was greatly in favour of Penarth, who were playing a great game. Gloucester worked hard, but they failed to stop the desperate rushes of their opponents, and their lines had some narrow escapes. Heeling by the home forwards saw Gibbs feed Thomas, and the centre running strongly was credited with a fine try. The place-kick failed.

Following the drop-out the Gloucester forwards got clear, and Gent dribbled past the centre, but was fouled. Penarth were penalised, but the kick was well returned. Then in a loose scramble "Whacker" Smith was kicked in the head. He had to retire, but the end soon afterwards came.

RESULT :
Penarth ..... 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)
Gloucester ..... Nil

REMARKS.

The game was splendidly contested, and considering the state of the ground there was a lot of good football shown. In the first half Gloucester held a decided advantage, and for quite three-parts of the game play was confined to the Penarth end.

The City forwards asserted superiority in all phases of play, and the backs brought off some pretty work. Several times Gloucester were all over scorers, but Penarth saved at the critical moment.

The second half saw a complete change. Penarth let themselves go, and with their ground record to maintain, played up with desperate keenness. Their forwards worked with determination and force, and commanded the scrums, while they were dashing in the loose.

The backs, too, were greatly in evidence, and Gloucester were clearly beaten. Both tries were well deserved, and but for Hyam's sound tackling the score would have been larger. Gloucester performed creditably on the whole, and on a less peculiar ground would no doubt have made the game safe in the first half.

Hyam played capitally at full-back, and Hall, Smith, and Harrison did splendid work at three-quarter. Hudson was not so prominent as usual. At half Gent and Stephens combined cleverly, when they were afforded the opportunity, and of the forwards Hawker, Pegler, Vears, and Purton were seen to advantage.

FROST AND FOG.

MATCHES ABANDONED.

Owing to the severe frost, a number of matches arranged for to-day had to be abandoned, amongst them being the following : −

Gloucester A *v*. St. Paul's Training College.
Stroud *v*. Cwmbran.
Cheltenham *v*. Usk.
Lydney *v*. Chepstow.
Lydney A *v*. Chepstow A.

JC