

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1906.

TO-DAY'S MATCHES.

GLOUCESTER v. PENYLAN.

POOR GAME AT KINGSHOLM.

CITY WIN BY EIGHTEEN POINTS.

Penylan proved a poor draw at Kingsholm to-day, and there was a very poor attendance when the teams took the field in showery weather as follows : –

Gloucester. – G. Romans, back; C. Smith (captain), A. Wood, E. Hall, and A. Hudson, three-quarter backs; J. Stephens and A. Hall, half-backs; W. Johns, G. Vears, G. Matthews, F. Pegler, W. Holder, J. Merchant, H. Collins, and A. Purton, forwards.

Penylan. – P. S. Howell, back; D. J. Davies, W. J. Warfield, C. Hill, and A. Francis, three-quarter backs; D. J. Stephens and J. Thomas, half-backs; G. Donaldson, D. C. Duncan, F. S. Coppock, E. G. Edwards, A. G. Stone, S. Gillard, T. Tuck, and J. Ward, forwards.

Referee : Mr. E. J. Jordan.

THE GAME.

Gloucester were successful in the toss, and "Whacker" Smith, who was acting as captain, deputed the visitors to start from the Worcester-street goal. There was only a poor return, the ball going to touch in the home half. A kick by a visitor was fielded by E. Hall, who sent to Hudson. The latter ran and punted, but Powell returned with a pretty screw kick to Stephens, who sent back, a knock-on following.

The Gloucester forwards heeled, and A. Hall passed out wide to Wood, who found touch at Penylan's 25. The Welshmen came away with a bout of passing, and a kick took them to the Gloucester half. Even play followed until A. Hall came away with a fine run to beyond the centre, where he was collared and his pass spoiled.

Romans was prominent with some good kicking, but Powell returned well. Gloucester made ground with some neat exchanges, but Wood failed to take from E. Hall. Johns, however, dribbled clear, and Powell was hard pressed. From a punt Hudson gathered and transferred to E. Hall, who cross-kicked, but Powell marked under difficulties.

Penylan gained relief through a mistake in passing by the home backs, but E. Hall with a flying kick found touch and checked a dangerous movement. Gloucester were getting the ball cleverly in the scrums, but Wood twice failed to accept his pass, and little ground was gained.

A. Hall was hereabouts laid out in a tackle, but was able to resume after a few minutes' rest. A poor kick by Romans was taken by Francis, who found touch close to the Gloucester goal. E. Hall was instrumental in bringing relief, and later the forwards took the game to the Penylan quarters. The visitors worked out, but a long punt by Romans sent them back, Powell having to kick to touch a few yards outside.

Ensuing play was very scrambling, and mistakes on both sides were frequent. Romans had a shot for goal from the centre mark, but the attempt was a poor one, and the visitors easily cleared. Gloucester came away with a good burst, but they were checked on the 25 line. For off-side play the visiting halves were penalised. Wood took a kick for goal, but the ball went the wrong side of the posts.

Little improvement was shown in subsequent play, and there were loud cries to Gloucester to "play up." At length Gloucester opened out, and "Whacker" Smith had a dash down the right wing, but he was forced to touch.

From the throw-out Matthews received, and tried to break through, but he was held up. Then the ball came to Wood, and Hudson raced over from the subsequent pass, only to hear the whistle go for a forward transfer. Gloucester looked like scoring in the next minute, but Wood slipped and was pounced upon. A mistake by the home men was promptly seized upon by the visitors, who dribbled to beyond the centre. Here play hovered for a brief period, but nothing of incident transpired.

The Welshmen tried passing, but the ball only came right across the ground. Then Gloucester opened out, and the ball coming to Hudson, the latter ran and punted over the full-back's head. Following up he had a clear field, but knocked on and lost a splendid opening. Gloucester had a couple of chances immediately after this incident, but they fumbled badly. Hudson was conspicuous with a couple of strong runs, but he failed to find an opening. Then Johns picked up from a scrum and fed Stephens, who raced down touch and passed inside to Purton. The latter sent on at the right moment to Merchant, who went over the line near the posts, with Powell hanging on to him. Romans landed a goal. The Penylan full-back was knocked out in falling, but came round in a short time.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 1 goal
Penylan Nil

Johns re-started for Gloucester, the visitors being short of Powell, who, however, soon returned to the field. The opening exchanges favoured Penylan, but a clever punt by Stephens gained ground for the home team. A. Hall now worked the scrums, and at once got the ball out, but the passing was too slow to be effective.

Near the centre the Gloucester halves initiated another movement, and a series of brilliant exchanges left the ball with Hudson. The wing man dashed down touch, but in trying to cut inside the full-back slipped and fell to the ground. He regained his feet and passed, but the transfer was intercepted by an opponent, who kicked and found touch on the Gloucester 25, a fine movement being absolutely wasted.

The City forwards regained some of the ground with a rush, and then out of some loose play Hudson picked up and sent to E. Hall. The centre passed back inside to Hudson, who handed to Holder. With a strong run the forward ran clean through the opposition and planted the ball behind the posts amidst cheers. Romans added the extra points.

Penylan re-started, and Thomas was early prominent with a smart run, getting down to Romans before he was forced to pass. The transfer was taken by a City man, and the situation was saved. Stephens and C. Smith were instrumental in changing the venue, and play was contested in the Penylan half. From a throw-out Holder secured, and shaking off a couple of opponents beat the full-back and scored another fine try. Romans failed at goal.

Gloucester were seen to advantage on the drop-out, and came near scoring in the corner. Penylan relieved from the line-out, but the City backs were soon away with a nice movement. The ball went through several pairs of hands, but the final transfer from E. Hall went wide of Hudson.

Play after this fell off again, the Gloucester backs being several times at fault in handling. A visitor was laid out in charging Wood, but after attention from the ambulance men he was able to continue. The Gloucester half-backs were working well together, but combination in the third line was sadly deficient, and ground in more than one instance was lost. Pretty work between A. Hall, Stephens, and Hudson looked promising for a score, but the International failed to beat the defence, though his trick of putting in a short punt nearly came off.

A scrum was formed close to the Penylan line, but the visitors wheeling, they dribbled out of danger. Romans did a fine bit of stopping, and later started a bout of passing, but Gloucester could not clear the defence. The City forwards were monopolising the ball in the scrum, and heeling well, but A. Hall and Stephens were poorly supported in the rear.

Taking advantage of the mistakes of the home men, Penylan gained a footing in the Gloucester end, but the City forwards, with a grand combined burst, took the ball right to the other end, and only just missed a try.

Penylan dropped out, and reached midfield. Here A. Hall initiated a nice movement, and the three-quarters combining cleverly, Hudson was sent off down touch. Putting on top speed, the International cleared the opposition and finished up one of his best efforts by scoring behind the posts. Romans added the goal points.

Resuming, Gloucester again attacked strongly, and "Whacker" Smith nearly scored in the right corner. Penylan worked out but Holder put them on the defence again with a dashing run. Later Hudson was fed cleverly, and the wing man made a great effort to score again. Following up his punt, the Gloucesterian tried hard to get in, but was unsuccessful, and only a minor resulted. To the end Gloucester held the advantage, but failed to add to their score.

RESULT :

Gloucester	3 goals, 1 try (18 points)
Penylan	Nil

REMARKS.

The game showed Gloucester in anything but a favourable light, and the spectators must have gone away sadly disappointed. Penylan played a useful sort of game, and were very smart forward, but the home team had a sufficient number of chances to have piled up anything between 30 and 40 points.

The weakness to-day was at three-quarter, where combination was at a discount, and mistakes in handling too frequent to mention. We had glimpses in the second half of what the men are capable of, and one or two movements were brilliantly carried out. Those instances, however, only served to emphasise the many failures. To-day's form would not serve Gloucester in their better class fixtures, and it is to be hoped a decided improvement will be early in evidence.

The Gloucester forwards were for the most part in the ascendant, especially in the scrums. In the loose and lines-out, however, Penylan fairly held their own, and several times tested the home defence.

Holder stood out as the finest forward on the field, and his two tries were the result of splendid individual efforts. Johns, Merchant, and Vears were grand workers, and Pegler and Purton were useful in the open. The Penylan pack were a smart lot all round, and they kept things moving all the time.

There was nothing to complain of in the display of Stephens and A. Hall at half-back. They were plied with chances by the forwards, and they, in their turn, gave the ball plenty of air. In the second half Stephens stood back from the scrum, and in his proper position he was continually in evidence.

As before mentioned, the City third line was disappointing, and passes were frequently bungled. Wood was a great sinner in this respect, and his failure gave "Whacker" Smith no chance in attack.

On the other wing, E. Hall and Hudson were fairly well occupied, but the pair were not so effective as we have seen them. The former put in some good saving work, but we missed those clever runs which were so prominent a feature of his play last season.

Hudson put in a tremendous amount of work, but it was not until the second half that he was seen at his best. His try was one of the old sort, and there was no mistaking his intentions when he went for the line.

The Penylan backs were nippy, and kicked and tackled well, but they had few opportunities of displaying their abilities in attack.

Romans played excellently at full back, and Powell, the visitors' custodian, was a cool hand.

GLOUCESTER A v. GORDON LEAGUE.

CITY SECONDS' SUBSTANTIAL VICTORY.

These teams met at Hempsted under dismal weather conditions. Early in the game Goddard, the League full-back, put in a poor kick, and Bloxsome ran in. No goal resulted.

Gloucester had most of the play, and "Tinker" Smith scored, no goal resulting.

Shortly after Bloxsome scored again, Welshman this time adding the majorising points.

Just before half-time P. G. Savage broke away nicely and scored a capital individual try, which was not improved.

In the second half Gloucester had matters pretty well their own way, the League's periods of aggression being few and far between.

Further tries were added by Bloxsome (2), Wyburn, Savage, and J. Welshman, and Hubert Smith dropped a goal.

RESULT:

Gloucester 2 goals (1d), 7 tries (30 pts)
Gordon League Nil