

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1906.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. PENYLAN.

SECOND-RATE WELSHMEN AT KINGSHOLM.

A ONE-SIDED GAME.

HEAVY SCORING.

This match, arranged to fill a vacant date on the Gloucester card, was played at Kingsholm before a moderate attendance. The visitors made several alterations in the side beaten by Stroud, whilst Gloucester were at full strength. The teams were as follows :

Gloucester. – G. Romans, back; C. Smith, E. Hall, J. Harrison, and A. Hudson, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent and J. Stephens, half-backs; W. Johns, A. Hawker, F. Pegler, G. Matthews, G. Vears, W. Holder, H. Collins, and B. Parham, forwards.

Penylan. – P. Howells, back; W. J. Fletcher, W. Warfield, F. Hewlett, and P. Herbert, three-quarter backs; A. Barrow and D. Stephens, half-backs; A Stone, E. Edwards, B. Wiles, J. Ward, G. Donaldson, P. Harding, J. Evans, and L. Williams, forwards.

Hawker kicked off, and there was a return to touch at the centre. A couple of kicks by the visitors sent play to the home half, where some loose scrimmages ensued. Romans receiving put in a fine return, and midfield was the centre of operations. A loose rush took the ball to the home 25, where Gent initiated a bout of passing. Stephens, Hall, Harrison, and Hudson in turn handled, and the latter, with a grand run half the length of the ground, scored in the corner. Romans failed at goal.

Resuming, Parham got away neatly, but his pass was knocked on with a good opening. Gloucester kept up the attack, and a beautiful round of passing sent Smith over, but the final transfer was ruled forward. Immediately after, however, the City backs were off again, and Smith scored a neat try, the place-kick failing.

Harrison received the drop-out and made a tricky run and pass, but a wild transfer spoiled a good movement. The Gloucester forwards heeled well, but the passing lacked finish. Useful kicking by the Cardiffians gained them ground, and some fumbling by the home backs let them into the 25. Here Penylan were awarded a penalty, but Harrison, with a good return, gained the advantage. In the home half, Gent got the ball away prettily to Stephens, and a series of lovely exchanges, in which nearly all the backs took part, clean beat the defence, and Hall raced over and behind the posts. Romans converted.

Penylan re-started, but they were soon placed on the defensive again, the Gloucester backs being continually in possession. Some clever passing was witnessed, but Smith and Harrison were stopped in time. For off-side play, the visitors were penalised, and a scrum ensued a few yards from their line. Here Gent secured, and after a clever opening he gave Hudson an easy try, which Romans converted.

Ensuing play was scrambling, but except for some good tackling the Welshmen were hopelessly outclassed. Some amusement was caused by Parham taking the ball from an opponent and running to the full-back, but he passed forward to Johns on the centre line. Gloucester were soon on the attack again, but Hudson could not quite round the opposition. The City, however, soon added to their score, for after some clever combination the ball got out to Hudson, and the International, with a fine burst, scored in the corner. No goal resulted.

Immediately after the re-start Gloucester were on the move again, and following a beautiful combined movement Smith registered the sixth try very smartly. The extra points were not added.

Gloucester went very close for another try on the drop-out, and Hall a minute later was only pulled down a yard from the posts. Penylan relieved with a forward rush, and Gent sustained an injury to his wrist, which eventually necessitated his retirement. A visitor was also laid out in effecting a tackle and assisted off the field, the teams thus being on an equality.

Penylan, aided by mistakes on the part of home players, got dangerous, but Gloucester quickly changed the venue. Parham played half in place of Gent, but nothing of note occurred to the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 2 goals, 4 tries
Penylan Nil

Penylan resumed, and both the injured players were able to continue. Play at the outset was listless, the home men appearing to treat the game very leisurely. Taking advantage of this slackness, the Welshmen played up strongly, and rushing to the home line Stone picked up and dived over with a try. The kick at goal failed.

Following the return to the drop-out Penylan started passing, but Hall intercepted and secured a fine opening. Johns, however, missed the pass with a certain try in view.

Subsequent play showed little improvement, and Gloucester were called upon to "play up." This served as incentive, for Matthews at once led a fine rush of the City forwards to the Penylan end. The full-back saved, but in some loose play Parham picked up and literally forced himself over near the posts. Romans added the extra points.

Started scoring again[sic], Gloucester quickly added to their big lead. From a line-out Hawker got away, and sent to the backs. Hall and Harrison in turn had possession, and a pass to Hudson saw the latter run over in good style, Romans goaling. Directly the ball was set in motion the Gloucester backs were started by Gent, and a grand run by Hudson enabled the International to race behind the posts with his fifth try. The extra points were forthcoming, making the aggregate 37 to 3.

During the next few minutes play fell off somewhat, and the visitors had a short spell of attacking, but they were beaten off. Some big kicking by Hall and Romans changed the venue, and Gloucester later put in good work, but could not find an opening.

Holder was prominent with a dashing bit of play, which gave the home team a good position. It was lost, however, through faulty passing, and Penylan went very close to the line. The Welshmen, however, were unable to press home their advantage, and Gloucester with a big effort reached the other end. Here the City had a good opening, but Harrison failed to take from Hudson.

The visitors went away from a line-out without molestation, but they were stopped at the centre. Penylan continued to play a plucky game, but when Gloucester exerted themselves the opposition was painfully weak. Romans placed a penalty goal with a fine kick, and a few minutes afterwards, following pretty work by Stephens, Hall gave Smith a very easy try. The goal-kick proved a failure.

Ensuing play was all in favour of Gloucester, and a neat movement by the City back division enabled Hall to cleverly beat the defence and notch the eleventh try. A goal resulted.

RESULT :

Gloucester 7 goals (1p), 5 tries (48 points)
Penylan 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS.

Such a game calls for little comment. Penylan may be considered a decent side in their class, which on to-day's form would appear to be decidedly second-rate. Gloucester certainly cannot gain anything by playing such teams, but we understand considerable difficulty was experienced in filling up the vacant date. The score of 48 points to 3 is sufficient indication of the one-sided character of the play, but even this huge total might have been added to appreciably had Gloucester treated their opponents seriously all through.

Satisfied that they could score almost when they pleased, the City frequently eased up, and took things very easily. It was during one of these slack periods that the Welshmen scored, but no one begrudged them the points. Gloucester were altogether too clever for their opponents and the defence was beaten cheaply time after time.

The Gloucester forwards had matters pretty much their own way, and Gent and Stephens worked in perfect harmony at half-back. The latter took all his passes beautifully, and the third line had a veritable day out, as the score sheet shows : Hudson 5 tries, Smith 3, Hall 2.

Romans landed six goals from tries and also a penalty goal – a satisfactory afternoon's work. Gloucester's points for the season now aggregate 415 to 120.

GLOUCESTER A v. SWINDON.

At Swindon. The superiority of the visitors was soon apparent, a try being obtained by Hughes immediately following the kick-off, Wood converting.

Further tries came in quick succession through Goddard, Cook, and Smith, Wood obtaining the extra points in one instance. Swindon responded with a try by Watkins, Adams failing at the kick.

In the second half the visitors increased their score by three tries, one being goaled. Swindon scored once.

RESULT :

Gloucester A	27 points
Swindon	8 points