

# **THE CITIZEN**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1923.**

**BRILLIANT FOOTBALL AT OXFORD.**

**GLOUCESTER BEATEN IN FREE-SCORING MATCH.**

After a remarkable game, Oxford University defeated Gloucester yesterday by 5 goals 1 try (28 points) to 1 goal 2 tries (11 points). Brown (2) and David scored for the City, Millington converting one.

The Gloucester forwards held a big advantage in the scrums and heeled repeatedly, and Milliner and Meadows did excellent work at half-back. It was the superior pace of the Oxford three-quarters that won the match for the University, four of the six tries scored being mainly individual efforts on the part of Jacob and Smith. – "W.B.'s" special comments on the match will appear in tomorrow's Football "Citizen."

## **PRESS COMMENTS.**

The "Morning Post" critic remarks : Oxford's superiority was by no means so great as the score indicates, for Gloucester were a more dangerous side than most of those the 'Varsity have encountered this season, and had it not been for the remarkable pace of the Oxford three-quarter line matters might have been very different.

Oxford's forwards did not start badly, but their form fell away as the game progressed. They seemed to be packing fairly low at times, but there was a noticeable lack of shove, and eventually Gloucester had it all their own way in the tight. When they did get the ball away the outsides generally did something with it, but Holford's hooking for Gloucester was seldom at fault, and consequently the 'Varsity were defending more than they were attacking.

Outside, Macdonald played a plucky game, but he found his master in Milliner, who is quite the best scrum half we have seen at Iffley-road this year. During the second half, although they scored three times – twice, however, through individual efforts on the part of Smith and Jacob – the 'Varsity were outplayed. The ball was mostly kept inside their 25, and again and again the Gloucester backs looked like scoring. They had very bad luck. David, who was playing his last game in England, was tackled more than once on the line, and Millington, who was playing very soundly, hit the goalpost with a drop while the Gloucester forwards were beating the 'Varsity pack, and Brown, their left wing, kept on running inside his centre, so that they usually had a man overlapping. It speaks well for the Oxford defence, especially that of Franklin, that they did not score more often.

It was, of course, pace which gave Oxford their brilliant victory in a game which was as instructive as it was spectacular (remarks Col. Trevor in the "Daily Telegraph"). The Gloucester team played well, and they were beaten for the simple reason that their three-quarter backs were not fast enough; either in attack or defence, for the opposing three-quarter backs.

The famous Tommy Voyce took part in this game, and, as he was very much to the fore in all the Gloucester rushes, we may hope that his injured knee has really yielded to treatment. To be representative an England team needs Voyce.