

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1923.

SCHOOLS' INTERNATIONAL TRIAL.

EAST v. WEST.

The English Schools' R.F.U. International trial, East v. West, took place at Kingsholm this afternoon. There was a good attendance, but the ground was very heavy after several days' rain.

Teams : –

West of England. – Powell (Bristol); Borlase (Plymouth), Hall, Poole, and Cole (Gloucester); Jones (Bristol) and Meadows (Gloucester); Williams, Hollister, Burman (Bristol), Grinter, Howard (Bath), Stevens, Curry (Plymouth), and Smith (Gloucester).

East of England. – Bates (Coventry); Clark, Blake (Coventry), Raven, and Timson (Leicester); Giles and Whitehead (Coventry); McReadie (Rugby), Harris, Hilyard, Cooke (Leicester), Romeley, Trickett, Wheatley (Coventry), and Walker (Rugby).

Referee : Mr. W. Thomas.

The East kicked off, and the game was keenly contested at mid-field for some time, Powell putting in some good kicks and Raven, on the other side, making a very fine save. Then the East got the ball away nicely and Raven and Timson ran strongly up the wing, the movement ending in a forward pass.

The East were now pressing strongly, but Powell and then Jones kicked well in defence, and the West cleared. Blake, of the East, was injured in a West rush, and the East line was in danger for some time until Bates cleared.

An exchange of kicks between Bates and Meadows gave the West the advantage, and then Meadows set the West three-quarters in motion. Their attack lacked sting, and the East forwards burst to beyond the centre, where Clark put in a good run and punt, forcing Powell to concede a minor.

The West were penalised some distance in front of goal, but Raven's kick for goal did not carry the distance. The West forwards were not long in clearing, and the East were called upon to defend; Blake, who had returned, putting in a good bit of defensive work.

The East three-quarters were playing splendidly, particularly Raven and Timson, but the home backs, with the exception of Meadows, who worked hard, did not combine at all well.

By robust work in the loose the West forwards pressed to the East quarter, where a keen struggle took place. The West tried hard to score but were thrust back, and in the course of a three-quarter movement Blake broke through and punted over Powell's head for Raven to score. Blake easily converted.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
East 1 goal
West Nil

In the first half the West backs, with the exception of Meadows, Jones and Powell, had put up a very poor game, and the forwards had been beaten badly for possession.

On the resumption the West forwards made a short burst, but they were quickly forced back and had to defend desperately. What chances came to them of clearing they missed, until Borlase gathered in the loose and put in a run three-parts the length of the field. He lost the ball, but Meadows carried on to the line, where a scrum was ordered. From the ensuing melee Williams fell over with a try, but the kick at goal failed.

This seemed to encourage the West, and they played up well for a time. The East defence held out, and they attacked strongly in turn, Powell twice saving grandly by falling on the ball in face of the East forwards.

The West defence continued to be severely tried, and when they managed to work to the centre they lost the ball in the scrum and were again forced back by good handling by the East backs. After combined pressure Timson scored an unconverted try for the East.

Time after time the East backs made for the West line, but Meadows, Borlase and Powell worked indefatigably and the defence held. Just on time a change came over the game, and after the West forwards had rushed to the East line Borlase picked up and scored an unconverted try.

RESULT :

East 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)

West 2 tries (6 points)

REMARKS.

The East, who were a heavier team, deserved their victory. They pressed almost continuously in the second half, their three-quarters being altogether better than the West three-quarters, who failed in combination.

The East halves were fine, and Meadows did wonderfully well considering the entire failure of the west forwards in the scrums.

In the loose the forwards were well matched. Powell played a first-class game at back for the West. Williams was the pick of the West forwards.

ENGLISH TEAM v. WALES.

The following were chosen at Kingsholm today to represent England in the match with Wales at Bristol on March 24th : –

Powell (Bristol); Borlase (Plymouth), Blake (Coventry), Raven, and Timson (Leicester); Giles (Coventry) and Meadows (Gloucester); Wilkins and Hollister (Bristol), Stevens and Curry (Plymouth), McCreadie (Rugby), Harris (Leicester), Romley and Trickett (Coventry).

Cooke (Leicester), 1st reserve forward; Hale (Gloucester), 1st reserve three-quarter.