

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1930.

GLO'STER'S NARROW ESCAPE.

WRONG TACTICS AGAINST OLD BLUES.

The Old Blues came very near to recording their first victory at Kingsholm on Saturday. This was rather surprising after Gloucester, with eleven reserves, did so well the previous week against Bristol. Although the City never looked a beaten side, they had to go all out to effect a draw. They played hard, but on the wrong lines, and that accounts for their failure to beat a team who had not been successful at Kingsholm.

The Old Blues did not adopt the five-eights formation, and have not played it at all this season. It was erroneously stated in the programme that they had.

On the run of the play the Old Blues were the better team, because they adopted the right tactics for the particularly bad weather conditions which prevailed. The Kingsholm pitch has not been in a worse condition this season. There were pools of water on the ground, it was pouring with rain, and yet Gloucester persisted in trying to open out the game with the result that they made very little ground.

The Old Blues had a strong pack, and most of their dangerous attacks were made by the forwards. The visiting eight, however, did not seem to last so well as the Gloucester pack, and in the closing stages were hard pressed. Except for the last few minutes the Old Blues attacked throughout the game, and gained a good deal of ground with their fine length touch-finding, W. W. Neilson, the visiting back, being a particularly safe and strong punter. The visitors had another big asset in A. C. Bennett, a centre three-quarter with a big kick and a useful turn of speed. Had the turf been firm he would have been difficult to stop.

A feature of the game was the way in which every movement on the part of the home backs was checked at the outset. No sooner had Meadows sent the ball out than the Old Blues three-quarters came right up and were on their men before they had a chance to run or kick.

Gloucester were also safe so far as tackling was concerned, but they made it much harder for themselves by allowing the visitors to get going before bringing them down. McCanlis could do little so far as attacking was concerned, although he accomplished a clever dribble to the Old Blues line once, and was robbed of a try by the ball going dead. It was decidedly not a day for the three-quarters, and as it is stated, the forwards made the mistake of letting the ball out instead of keeping it tight.

Ash continues to improve, and is developing into a really useful back. Meadows was, as usual, prominent as the originator of the attacks, but even his hands found it difficult to hold the slippery ball. He was indirectly responsible for Gloucester's second try, which was a good piece of work, and coming as it did in the last minute of the game, caused all the more excitement.

Roy James was the scorer, and although hard pressed, even after he had crossed the line he made a strong attempt to get nearer the posts. After going a few paces, however, he decided to play for safety, and put the ball down. One of the most remarkable points about the match was the fact that the Old Blues were in the home half for the greater part of the time.