

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1929

OXFORD UNIVERSITY v. GLOUCESTER.

Gloucester repeated their triumph of two years ago at Oxford on Wednesday, by beating the University by 24 points to 14. In many respects the game was similar to that of 1927-8, the City making a wonderful recovery in the second half, after being five points in arrears at the interval, and winning handsomely.

In the previous game it was Jack Stephens who came along with two penalty goals and two successful goal kicks from tries; on Wednesday Harold Boughton obliged with five goals (two penalty and three converted).

The two penalty kicks by Boughton were from nearly half way and against a strong wind. Both were magnificent efforts, and the second was described by Tom Voyce as one of the finest he had ever seen. The old International considered it was 50 to 1 against the kicker.

So much for Boughton's goal-kicking. Two International selectors (Capt. A. D. Stoop, who is coaching the Oxford team this season, and Admiral Royds) were present at the match on the look-out for International trial candidates. Boughton and Adamson are possibles for the full-back position, and on Wednesday's form the Gloucester man must have earned a few more marks over his rival. Adamson had an off-day, especially in the second half when he made several mistakes and was generally unsteady. Boughton all-round was his superior on the day.

Gloucester were strengthened on Wednesday by the inclusion of Gwyn Davies (Cheltenham) – who deputised for T. Babington, who

had promised to play owing to Roy James not being available – Stan Weaver (Cinderford) and D. Crichton-Miller, the old Cambridge Blue.

The latter is a master at Monmouth Grammar School, and has offered his services to the City. He will be available at least up to the Christmas vacation, and afterwards, and he is too good a player to be kept out of the side. Crichton-Miller is a back row forward, very fast and clever in the open, and with Franklin at present disabled he should prove invaluable as a colleague to Saxby and Joe Davies. Those three players were very prominent against Oxford and their combined raiding, in conjunction with Weaver, contributed largely to the collapse of the University in the second half.

Saxby's presence in the City pack made a vast difference, and his leadership and dash had an inspiring effect. The game was extended over two forties; but the visitors lasted splendidly, and were always able to keep the Dark Blues in check. In the earlier stages the Gloucester men were beaten for possession, but later in the game they more than held their own, and in loose footwork they held a big advantage.

The University showed the value of the Stoop influence and opened up continually from the loose, and with not a little success. It was an object lesson to the Gloucester forwards, and should not be without its effect. Of the four tries scored by Gloucester, all in the second half, three went to the forwards – Weaver (2) and Davies; whilst it was a pass from the Cinderford captain that led to McCanlis scoring the fourth.

Oxford led off with two opportunist tries – one from an attacking movement by their opponents which broke down, when Comley failed to take a pass from Stephens after a clever break through. In the second instance the bounce of the ball over the line completely beat Boughton, and Robson was as much surprised as anyone when he was able to gain the touch.

The City backs did not see a great deal of the ball in the first half, but later on Price and Stephens had their chances, and made full use of them. The outside half did a lot of good things, and was particularly smart in the break through.

McCanlis and Gwyn Davies made a fine combination at centre three-quarter. Both were thrustful and strong in attack, and contributed clever runs which deserved better results. The marking and tackling too, were excellent, and the Oxford outsides found it very difficult to gain an opening. Loveridge and Abbey had not the speed to round the opposition, but on the whole the wing men had a satisfactory afternoon if failing to score.

Oxford, of course, are building up their team, and there were several changes on Wednesday from the side which beat the United Services so handsomely.

After a promising start the backs faded away, Russell (outside half) and the centres (Robson and Brookes) being too prone to run across the field. Brookes scored one clever try, but the best three-quarter in the line was Cardale, who should be a strong candidate for his Blue against Cambridge.

The Oxford forwards were given a testing time by a strong pack which included five men who opposed Devon at Exeter. It was a test which the University players required for the one match that matters, and it was agreed that Gloucester's visit had done them a lot of good.

Of the new forwards, Howard and Hoffmeyer (who scored two tries) were two of the best men in the pack, and Swayne (who has played for Hereford) made a good impression.

Wednesday's game, with its free scoring and fluctuating periods, was very enjoyable to watch, and though the result was

disappointing from an Oxford point of view Gloucester's fine work in the second half was fully appreciated.

**JC**