

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1935

OXFORD UNIV. 15 Pts., GLOUCESTER 13

GLOUCESTER BEATEN IN THRILLING STRUGGLE

UNIVERSITY SUPERIOR IN SPEED AND FINISH

SPECIAL BY "W.B."

Resting eight Blues, including Obolensky, in their last match prior to meeting Cambridge at Twickenham on Dec. 10, Oxford University added to their season's triumphs by defeating Gloucester at Kingsholm. The City lacked the services of Tanner and Edwards.

The Russian Prince, who established himself a favourite at Kingsholm last season, when he scored two brilliant tries for Oxford Greyhounds, met with a slight injury in Thursday's game with Major Stanley's XV., and it was deemed advisable not to let him run any further risk in view of the close approach of the test with Cambridge.

Gloucester had to call on Cale, the United wing, to replace Tanner. Roy James had accepted the invitation to turn out when it was known the International was not available, but he injured his ankle when training, and had to stand down.

## GLOUCESTER

FULL-BACK: H. Boughton.

THREE-QUARTERS: W. Cale, J. C. Brooks (capt.), T. Pugsley, and R. E. Hook.

HALF-BACKS: E. Day and D. Meadows.

FORWARDS: A. Carpenter, T. Price, C. Harris, J. G. A'Bear, R. Morris, A. Welshman, P. Hordern, and Ivor Williams.

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY

FULL-BACK: J. L. Stuart-Watson (Brasenose).

THREE-QUARTERS: J. D. Anderson (Brasenose), M. M. Walford (Trinity), R. Harding (Brasenose), and J. Toulmin (Brasenose).

HALF-BACKS: C. F. Grieve (Christ Church), and J. McShane (New).

FORWARDS: J. Rochford (Christ Church), N. F. McGrath (University), P. Blundell (Trinity), G. D. Rees (University), A. Albers (Oriental), M. M. Cooper (University), C. J. Laubcher (Trinity), and J. K. Marsh (Trinity).

REFEREE: Mr. H. L. V. Day (London Society of Referees).

### THE GAME

The kick-off was delayed a quarter of an hour, owing to the late arrival of the referee. The attendance was between 5,000 and 6,000.

Brooks started, and Oxford started passing, but it broke down before travelling far. The University at once set up a hot pace, and Watson, fielding a kick up the field, dodged his way through cleverly and set his three-quarters moving. Sound tackling prevented an opening, and Gloucester worked back.

Heeling by the City saw Meadows serve Hook with an inside transfer, and the wing man cut through nicely, but Brooks to whom he transferred was tackled. Well-judged punts by Grieve recovered for Oxford, and play settled in the home half.

### BRILLIANT TRY FOR GLOUCESTER

Some Gloucester handling broke down and allowed the visitors to make headway, but the City broke away again to midfield.

Here in some loose play Williams secured and brilliant combination followed, ending in BROOKS bursting through and over the line for a try.

Boughton converted with a grand kick ten yards from touch, and Gloucester were five points up.

On the restart Boughton shone with a lovely touch kick, in reply to Watson, and later on he repeated the effort with a nice left-foot punt. Walford put Oxford in a good position with a 30 yards' touch-finder, and subsequent play was with the forwards inside the Gloucester half.

#### PENALTY GOAL FOR OXFORD

Oxford heeled from several scrums, and the backs, well served by McShane, indulged in some smart handling, but the final transfer went astray. Again the City were placed on the defensive by good kicking, and a bad pass by Meadows looked dangerous. Brooks picked up and handed back to Boughton, but the latter was immediately pulled down.

Gloucester carried a scrum, and were well away when offside gave away a penalty, and COOPER, with a splendid kick, landed a goal.

Fast play followed the restart, Gloucester holding their own for a time. The Oxford forwards, however, were fast in the open and tackled with great keenness.

Eventually the City outsides combined cleverly, and Brooks got in a lovely cross-kick to a bunch of home forwards. Morris, however, knocked on, with a glorious chance of a score. Gloucester confined their opponents in their own end, but a long dribble brought the University out to midfield.

#### UNIVERSITY ATTACK AND TAKE THE LEAD

From a line-out Marsh made a strong dash and punted over the line, and Boughton only just got the touch in the nick of time. Oxford returned to the attack with loose footwork, but Boughton was very safe, and cleared under great pressure.

Inside the home 25 Day fed Meadows, who dodged through nicely, but from his punt ahead, Watson made his mark. Gloucester, from the next scrum, opened out, but the handling was too slow, and a repass from Pugsley to Brooks was intercepted by HARDING, who raced clear, and beating Boughton scored a splendid try, which Cooper converted with a fine shot. Oxford were now leading 8–5, and on the play they deserved the distinction.

The pace of the game continued fast on the restart, with the Gloucester forwards putting in some strong bursts. Outside the scrum, however, the University backs were the cleverer and more dangerous when in possession.

#### GLOUCESTER SPOIL GOOD EFFORTS

A great burst by the City pack and neat work by Cale gave the home side an advantage, but finish was lacking. Gloucester, however, continued their dashing play, and after a good run by Meadows, Cale made a determined effort to get clear, but was well tackled.

The City were well on top in the next few minutes, but over-anxiousness lost one or two good openings. The acceptance of a pass on two occasions would probably have meant a try. Big kicking brought relief for Oxford, but the home forwards replied with a great rush, and a punt being charged down the Dark Blues line was in danger. The situation was relieved only to see Gloucester quickly recover. Play at the interval was at the centre.

#### HALF-TIME :

Oxford University ....	2 goals (1p)
Gloucester .....	1 goal

Gloucester had enjoyed a good share of the play, but the backs lacked the nippiness of the opposition, and failed to make the best use of their opportunities. The football, however, had been very bright.

Gloucester opened strongly, and they were appreciably aided by a fine touch-finder by Boughton. Later Meadows broke through neatly, but Watson accepted his short kick ahead and cleared the City forwards cleverly.

#### GLOUCESTER REGAIN THE LEAD

Meadows sent play back, but Grieve, whose kicking was always useful, recovered for Oxford. Boughton was once collared in possession in trying to beat a couple of opponents, and this gave Oxford a footing in the Gloucester end. Play was quickly transferred to beyond the centre, where Meadows opened out cleverly. Brooks and Hook in turn handled, and Boughton, coming up, accepted a pass and cross-kicked with perfect judgment.

The Gloucester forwards were well placed, and HORDERN, securing the ball on the bounce, raced over behind the posts.

No charge was allowed, and Boughton easily converted to restore the lead to Gloucester.

#### CITY SCORE AGAIN

Encouraged by this success, Gloucester went all out, and another brilliant try rewarded their efforts in less than three minutes. A movement was started from the scrum, and Brooks, after receiving from Meadows, cut between the opposing centres and worked out a nice opening. HOOK accepted the transfer with an open line and scored easily. Boughton failed with the goal kick.

#### WALFORD'S DROPPED GOAL

This scoring aroused the spectators to a high pitch of excitement, and interest was fully maintained. Following the restart, Oxford took full advantage of mistakes, and Gloucester were on the defensive. From some loose play the ball was gathered by WALFORD who from 30 yards out, dropped a clever goal.

The game continued to be splendidly contested, with only a point separating the teams. Each side in turn held the advantage, but Oxford were the more finished exponents.

#### OXFORD AHEAD AGAIN

Oxford, with fast following, obtained an attacking position, and from loose play WALFORD picked up and threading his way past the opposition finished a magnificent solo run by scoring. Cooper missed the goal points, but the lead had again changed hands, the advantage now being with Oxford, 15–13.

Gloucester had a bad five minutes after this and fumbling behind nearly ended in disaster. Cooper, from a penalty kick, hit the upright, the ball rebounding into play, from which they nearly scored. The City were hotly pressed for a few minutes, but Brooks eventually brought welcome relief, and the forwards further improved the position. Oxford raced back with brilliant running and passing, and only a deadly tackle close in saved the situation.

In the concluding minutes Gloucester made strenuous efforts to score again, Hordern once being held up on the line. Nothing further was done, and an exciting game ended in favour of the University by two points.

#### RESULT :

OXFORD UNIVERSITY ... 3 goals (1d., 1p.) 1 try (15 points)  
GLOUCESTER ..... 2 goals 1 try (13 points)

#### REMARKS

The superior speed and finish of the University were the winning factors in a struggle contested at a great pace throughout. Gloucester finished in splendid style, and in the last few minutes opportunities were afforded of snatching a victory, but they were thrown away.

It speaks volumes for the reserve talent at Oxford that they were able to field a side to-day without eight of the selected team to meet Cambridge, and yet emerge triumphant. Gloucester had their full share of the play and equal chances of scoring, but mistakes were made at critical moments.

It was a splendid contest forward. The Oxford men were a very fast set in the open, and it was fatal to attempt anything in the way of risky moves. Any dropped passes on the part . . .

[Remainder of the report of unknown length missing; removed from the original vers.]

JC