

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1925

FOOTBALL

FROM W.B.'S NOTEBOOK

OLD EDWARDIANS AT KINGSHOLM

VICTORY BUT CITY'S FORM VARIABLE

The evening match with the Old Edwardians at Kingsholm on Thursday, provided Gloucester with their third victory (14 pts. to 3 was the score), but the City could hardly have derived much satisfaction from the game. On the whole Gloucester's display was disappointing after the promise against Lydney; the men worked hard enough but lacked method, and at times the form all-round was decidedly scrappy.

Credit must be given to the Old Boys for infusing plenty of dash into their play, and their close marking and deadly tackling appeared to put the home players off their game to a large extent. Forward, the Gloucester eight were not together in the scrimmage, and this resulted in slovenly heeling and a deterioration in general play. Even when opening up there was an absence of skill and judgment, and no one appeared clever enough to counter the smothering tactics of the opposition.

The Edwardians were a much lighter pack, but they were fast on the ball and smarter in getting it away to their backs from the loose. Voyce and Reed were the more prominent individually in the open, and between them they worked one try perfectly. Reed's motto evidently is "Make headway quickly," for once in possession he dashes straight ahead for the goal line. That "Gracie like" swing of the ball when running has caught on with the crowd.

Behind the scrum, the Edwardians were better in combination and handled more accurately. Humphreys, who scored the try, was a strong runner at centre, and his play generally made a good impression. He was laid out once in a tackle, waist high, by Millington, man and ball being completely smothered.

Some of the Gloucester tackling was very feeble in comparison, the man going far too high and allowing opponents to slip away. Taylor's cleverness in attack was greatly missed, for though Thomas accomplished some good things he was not always happy in his tactics.

At three-quarter the City could not claim a distinct superiority over their opponents. Loveridge was the most effective wing, and he made several fine attempts to beat the defence. It was his best display I have seen for the premier team, and it should afford him considerable satisfaction and encouragement.

Hughes was as nippy as usual, though with fewer chances than generally comes his way, and James made one beautiful run in the first half, going straight through – an effort which only just failed in producing a try. James is a centre in the making, and the Committee will not lose an opportunity of giving him a further opportunity of showing what he can do.

With Doctor Taylor available to-day, Thomas was given the centre position. I take it this means his absence from earlier training was not due to any lack of interest or keenness in the game, and that his services are available when required.

The displays of the rival full backs – Millington and Rigby – were among the best features of Thursday's game. The City custodian was excellent in all that he did and effected some remarkable clearances under pressure, whilst two or three enterprising movements of his deserved a better result. Rigby, too, was particularly safe in his fielding and catching, and though severely tested at times by the home forwards the youngster never failed to clear his lines.

The Edwardians have a pretty useful side, and the performance they put up against Gloucester gave every promise of a successful season. It was a happy innovation to renew acquaintance with the Old Boys, and the crowd thoroughly enjoyed the sporting character of the game.

JC