

# THE CITIZEN

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1925

## FOOTBALL

OXFORD U. 17; GLO'STER 11

DISORGANISED CITY TEAM'S GREAT FIGHT

WONDERFUL COMBINATION & BRILLIANT TRIES

UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT TO HUGHES

Gloucester visited Oxford to-day for their annual fixture with the University team. Last year the Dark Blues were at Kingsholm, a remarkable scoring and thrilling game ending in favour of Gloucester by 23 points to 16.

Some of the City's experiences at Oxford have not been altogether happy from a result point of view, but with a fairly representative side doing duty this afternoon it was hoped the club, if unable to emulate the recent performance at Bristol, would give their powerful opponents a close game.

Gloucester were short of Duberley, Short and Roberts forward, the vacancies being filled by Second teamers.

Oxford fielded a strong side, including C. E. W. Mackintosh, who appeared for Gloucester against Capt. Donne's XV. in the club jubilee match last season.

Gloucester made some changes, Hopcroft playing at right wing three-quarter. In the forwards Rea dropped out and F. Sturge took the place of Shaw. For Oxford A. C. Wallace came in for Waldock at half.

The weather was fine, but there were only 2,000 spectators.

Teams : –

## GLOUCESTER

BACK : T. Millington.

THREE-QUARTERS : S. A. Brown, E. L. Saxby, E. H. Hughes, and A. Hopcroft.

HALF-BACKS : R. Milliner and Dr. Taylor.

FORWARDS : A. T. Voyce (captain), F. W. Ayliffe, J. Hemmings, J. Read, W. B. Scott, E. Triggs-Herbert, F. Sturge, and G. Foulkes.

## OXFORD

BACK : D. Drysdale (Heriots School, Edinburgh, and Brasenose).

THREE-QUARTERS : C. E. W. Mackintosh (Eastbourne and University), F. H. Wright (Sherborne and New College), J. V. Richardson (Uppingham and Brasenose), and H. P. Jacob (Cranleigh and Christ Church).

HALF-BACKS : A. C. Wallace and W. I. N. Strong (Eastbourne and Brasenose).

FORWARDS : G. E. B. Abell (Marlborough and Corpus), A. C. Valentine (Swartmore College, Pennsylvania, and Balliol), W. V. Berkley (Fettes and Hertford), B. W. Preston (Rugby and New College), D. F. Landale (Eton and Balliol), J. F. Oliver (Blundell and Balliol), R. R. Scholl (Victoria and New College), L. S. Seccombe (Felsted and Pembroke).

Referee : Mr. A. E. Freethy (Neath).

## THE GAME

Gloucester opened strongly forward, but passing by the Oxford backs brought relief, Mackintosh being nicely tackled by Hughes. Centre play followed, but attempts to open out by the University were spoiled by bad handling.

**Wallace punted** well down to Millington who found touch with his return. Scott led to Gloucester making a breakaway and a loose rush further improved matters. Oxford quickly regained the ground by the aid of a penalty and later the home team had a chance from a cross kick by Jacob but it was fumbled.

Gloucester cleared effectively and Taylor opening out, Saxby fed Brown who sprinted and punted ahead. Oxford were hotly pressed and the ball getting loose VOYCE picked up and scored a good try. Millington failed at goal.

On resuming Taylor cut through smartly and there were some exchanges which left the ball with Brown. An inside pass from the latter, however, went astray and Oxford saved. Fine work by the City forwards severely tested the home team, and the backs also did well.

Play was confined to the University half when a penalty kick enabled them to gain some 30 yards. Back Gloucester went with footwork, and Drysdale was forced to kick straight to touch.

Passing inside their own quarter saw Jacob sprint past Hopcroft when he punted ahead, but Millington was able to get back to touch down. Following the drop-out Millington made a mis-kick and Oxford attacked sharply. Brown, however, intercepted and obtained a fine clearance.

Midfield play ensued until Wallace made a fine cut through, and with Richardson and Jacob well placed a try was certain if the transfers were accepted. These were done neatly and JACOB raced round behind the posts, for Drysdale to add the goal points.

The Gloucester forwards continued to play strenuously, but the Oxford backs were always dangerous when in possession. Millington again kicked poorly, and a forward gathering he cross-punted, Jacob just failing to gather.

Gloucester had an anxious time for a couple of minutes, but Saxby gained relief, being unfortunate in slipping when breaking clear. A kicking duel ended favourably to Gloucester, and later Drysdale was collared in possession on the line.

Hemmings was injured and left the field, but with seven forwards Gloucester had the better of it. A long passing run and a dribble by Wallace took play to the other end where Millington saved splendidly. The ensuing play was even until the Gloucester backs brought off a brilliant movement which only just failed in a try. A couple of minutes before the interval DRYSDALE dropped a clever goal with the left foot for Oxford.

HALF-TIME :

OXFORD ..... 2 goals (1d.)

GLOUCESTER ..... 1 try

On the play Gloucester were unlucky in being six points down, for the City had shown capital form and twice were very unfortunate in not scoring. Forward the City had the better of matters, even when short of Hemmings who came on but had to retire again.

When the game was resumed, however, Hemmings took his place in the team. The Oxford backs were set going by Wallace soon after the restart but Jacob's pass back inside was not taken and Gloucester worked out of danger but Wallace ran back beautifully.

There appeared a splendid opening but Jacob was bundled to touch just outside. Gloucester cleared to the 25 where Milliner opened out.

A magnificent piece of combination followed, the ball going from Taylor to Saxby, and thence to Brown, back inside it came to Saxby and then to Taylor, the final pass going to VOYCE who scored behind the posts for Millington to land a goal. The movement was brilliantly carried through and evoked rounds of well-deserved applause.

Within a point of their rivals Gloucester restarted in great style and only the wonderful work of Drysdale saved the Oxford lines. Grand loose work by the City compelled Oxford to act on the defensive. Some fine open football followed, Gloucester performing surprisingly well behind. A bit of bad luck lost a try on the left and then Oxford gained an opening, brilliant passing ending in JACOB sprinting over with a try which Drysdale converted.

This was only the second time Oxford had been dangerous this half, but it showed what the University could do when given anything like a chance. For the next few minutes Oxford kept play in the City half, and from a penalty some distance out RICHARDSON landed a fine goal, giving his side a nine points' lead.

Gloucester played up with splendid dash on the restart, and Hughes shone in a brilliant run, but his pass to the wing man was intercepted, and Oxford luckily escaped.

A combined passing run by the University took the home team well down, but Jacob was forced to kick, and Milliner cleared. Voyce led Gloucester in a fine loose rush, and the University were subjected to sever pressure. Quick work by Milliner might have ended in a score, but Voyce was not ready for the pass, and Oxford luckily cleared.

Gloucester, however, were not to be denied, and another great try came as the result of some wonderful combination. Forwards and backs shared in this, and HOPCROFT dashed over in the corner. Millington missed the goal. Hughes had to leave the field now owing to knee trouble, Voyce coming out to centre.

Gloucester did finely in subsequent play and pressed, but big kicking gave Oxford relief. Wallace left the field with a damaged ankle. The closing stages were well fought out, but there was no further score.

#### RESULT :

OXFORD ..... 4 goals (1d, 1p) (17 points)  
GLOUCESTER .... 1 goal, 2 tries (11 points)

## REMARKS

It was one of the finest games seen at Oxford for some time. Oxford won, but Gloucester might easily have turned the tables with the slightest bit of luck. It was the best display the City have given this season, and the backs and forwards shared in the honours.

Gloucester were splendidly together in all phases of forward work, and there was not a weak man in the pack. At half Milliner and Taylor both accomplished much good work, and Hughes and Saxby were splendid. In the centre Brown always held Macintosh, but Jacob's speed was too much for Hopcroft.

Millington made one or two weak kicks in the first half, but he was sound in defence. Gloucester's two tries in the second half were equal to anything accomplished by Oxford, the ball passing through the hands of at least eight players each time. It was found Hughes had broken his leg just above the ankle, a regrettable accident which caused general sympathy with the unfortunate player.