

27/12/58

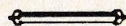
GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

(Founded in 1873)

TO-DAY'S GAME IS VERSUS

UNIVERSITIES A.U.

(Kick-off 2-30 p.m.)



Saturday, Dec. 31st—Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

N E A T H

The Universities' Athletic Union XV come to Kingsholm to-day for the third game of their Christmas tour. They will by now have knitted into a team and, being extremely fit, will give a good account of themselves we may be sure. Last year they pulled off a win, and will be going hard for another victory to-day.

These young men have studied their rugger and play with with a zest that is a delight to spectators and players alike. We can expect a virile and exciting tussle to-day.

Official Programme: Price Threepence

INTRODUCING

R. A. ('Nobby') CLARKE, 24 year old second row or lock forward. A hard grafter in tight and loose, 'Nobby', 6 ft. 1 in. in height and weighing 14 st. 3 lb. is ideally built for his position. Educated at Hereford High School, he played for his school and Herefordshire and Worcestershire Boys. A schoolmaster, 'Nobby' was at Carnegie with M. Regan and J. P. Quinn, an association which led to his joining the Liverpool F.C. (R.U.) one of the oldest clubs in the North. While with Liverpool he had a trial for the North Midlands. In this, his first season with Gloucester, he has shown his adaptability in fitting in with our pack and we expect great things from him in the future.

REFLECTIONS

"Reflections" wishes to dwell a moment upon the spectator and particularly the Kingsholm spectator. There are few crowds in the country more appreciative of opponents' play and more generous in their applause for a display of good rugby by either side. This is a grand sporting attribute. Accustomed to good rugby however, the Kingsholm spectator is sometimes inclined to be a little critical of slips by his own players, particularly this season, when so many youngsters have come into the side. A little more loyal and understanding support could be given. Such support helps to create confidence in a player in his own ability—and self-confidence, as we all know, is essential to any player who is going to try something fresh. So, Kingsholm spectator, give 'em a good hand if they try something, even if it doesn't come off.

BACKING A WINNER

Continuing the thoughts we wrote in passing a short while ago—what is the next step? The pass is after all only the beginning of a movement, the conclusion coming when someone grounds the ball behind the opponent's line. In between are a number of hazards. The defence men may take each man with the ball; an interception may occur; or the movement may break down from lack of momentum or of players to carry it on.

Success surely must depend upon backing-up. In other words, when he has passed the ball on, the player must back up his line by coming up behind them. He is now available to make the 'extra man' in attack; he is in the position of being able to switch direction; and he can also assist his line if the ball goes to ground. By backing-up behind his line he also forms an extra defensive position. He is ready for a kick ahead by the opponents and he can stop the man who intercepts. In other words he can become the spearhead of an attack and he helps to provide defence in depth. So don't forget to back-up lads!

NEATH

The Welsh "All-Blacks" will be here on Saturday and we advise you to get to your place in good time. Neath narrowly won by a dropped goal and a penalty goal to a try earlier this month, and we may expect our lads to go all out to reverse that decision.