

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1926

FROM W.B's NOTEBOOK

SEASON'S PROSPECTS AT KINGSHOLM

KEENNESS OF YOUNG PLAYERS

GLOUCESTER OPEN MODERATELY AT STROUD

Gloucester, as last year, sent over a team to Stroud on Thursday evening as a preliminary to the opening of the season at Kingsholm this afternoon against Lydney.

Allowing for that start-of-the-season expectancy and eagerness which is inclined to prevent teams from settling down straight away, the game was good, although that quality was only shown in parts.

Stroud (writes "D.G.C.") always seem to bring out fifty per cent. more vim and spoiling tactics when they meet Gloucester, and they introduced it on this occasion with the result that some periods were scrappy indeed.

When it came to a combined movement Gloucester's superiority was evident. In the first half, when the Stroud pack heeled out at least three times to one, the home threes had enough opportunity to show their ability, but it did not reach a high standard even although the opposition marked well. Gloucester won by 8 points to 3, and fully deserved the victory.

Loveridge scored both the Gloucester tries, the movements for which were initiated by Thomas, at full back, and carried on by Millington.

In the first score Hughes gave the final transfer to Loveridge, and in the second try it was Voyce who took the ball practically to the line and sent Loveridge in.

Voyce had come out of the pack to make an extra three-quarter, but unfortunately Milliner retired midway through the second half with a cut face, and Hughes took up the position of scrum half.

In the "rough-and-tumble" with T. Gough, Hughes was quite in his element. Thomas played delightfully at full back; while Hughes and Loveridge were the more experienced wing, albeit Roy James and Hough showed enough promise to justify another chance on the left wing.

The Gloucester forwards were a long time in settling down to concerted methods, but once they did that Stroud were beaten in spite of all their keen marking and bustling tactics.

Watkins was the outstanding three-quarter for Stroud, and scored the penalty goal which gave them their only points. Millington converted one of the Gloucester tries and failed with three penalty kicks. One of these struck the post and came back into play, and Watkins's scoring kick struck the post and went over for the goal – rather striking instances of bad and good luck.

Millington's conversion came as the result of one of the finest kicks he has ever taken, the position being near the touch-line at midfield.