

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1926

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. OXFORD UNIVERSITY

A big mid-week Rugby attraction was provided at Kingsholm in the visit of Oxford University for the annual match with the City team. Gloucester were short of Millington, who took a rest, the outside half position being filled by Hughes.

The weather was dull and rain threatened, and the attendance was rather disappointing.

Teams : —

GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Thomas.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. N. Loveridge, Roy James, J. Stephens, and R. C. Thompson.

HALF-BACKS : R. Milliner and E. H. Hughes.

FORWARDS : A. T. Voyce (capt.), M. Short, E. Triggs-Herbert, G. Foulkes, A. J. Owner, J. Hemmings, E. Comley, and L. Bartlett.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY

BACK : (1) F. Spragg.

THREE-QUARTERS : (23) E. G. Taylor, (3) F. H. Wright, (24) M. A. McCanlis, (5) R. M. Byers.

HALF-BACKS : (7) N. L. Macdonald, (6) J. A. Nunn.

FORWARDS : (8) G. E. B. Abell, (9) D. F. Landale, (10) W. V. Berkeley, (13) C. H. Gibson, (14) M. W. A. Harris, (22) D. I. W. Dryburgh, (25) W. N. Evans, (19) T. W. Gubb.

THE GAME

Gloucester started the game and play opened in the Oxford half. The visitors soon began to open out but Wright passed forward to Taylor. Centre play followed until Macdonald got the ball away to his threes. Neat passing left the ball with Byers, who cleared Thompson but was finely tackled by Hughes. Play was even for the next few minutes, but Abell threw out from a line out and clever handling saw Taylor sent away. The left wing cross-kicked, but a forward who received was off-side and a penalty followed.

Oxford confined operations to the home half where first Milliner and then Hemming got off-side, but though the positions were favourable nothing resulted. A fine touch finder by Thomas enabled Gloucester to reach half way, but the Oxford backs were away again. Byers tried hard but fell to a good tackle. From a mark Nunn sent play close to the home line, where the City were closely pressed. A timely punt by Thomas, however, eased the pressure.

Scrambling forward play ensued in the Gloucester half, there being little in it. Twice Gloucester men had kicks charged down; and then from a punt out by Thomas, Spragg ran round and started his three-quarters going. A series of neat exchanges left the ball with TAYLOR, who dashed ahead and scored a fine try. Berkeley failed at goal.

Following the restart Gloucester took up the attack, and Hughes gathering the ball slipped the defence and passed to Thompson. Spragg, however, brought his man down a couple of yards outside. A couple of scrums ensued close to the line, but on the ball coming out Gloucester fumbled and lost the position.

Oxford made headway with a loose dribble, which Thomas checked cleverly. The home forwards heeling, Milliner opened out, but Stephens missed his pass, and though Thompson recovered, he was not able to do much. Again the City backs were in possession, and James punted hard, Spragg being forced to kick almost straight to touch.

Oxford worked out to more favourable quarters, but the football displayed was not of a high standard. From a loose kick Thomas picked up and fed James, who dodged up the centre of the field and passed to Foulkes. The latter made progress, but his transfer was ruled forward. Next Voyce dribbled away and kicked past Spragg. Hughes raced up, and there appeared every chance of a score, but Oxford saved at the critical moment.

HALF-TIME :

OXFORD 1 try
GLOUCESTER Nil

RESULT :

OXFORD..... 13 Pts.
GLOUCESTER 3 Pts.