

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1927

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER 18 U.C.S. OLD BOYS 8

OLD BOYS THE CLEVERER TEAM

A GREAT TRY

The Old Boys of University College School, London, made their first appearance at Kingsholm to-day in a guarantee match. Gloucester were short of Voyce (who was playing for Richmond against Blackheath, and not for the Harlequins v. Leicester, at the request of the Rugby Union Selection Committee), Hughes, and Seabrook. After a wet morning the weather cleared, but the attendance at the start was under 3,000. The ground, considering the recent heavy rain, was in fair condition, though heavy in places.

Teams : –

GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Thomas.

THREE-QUARTERS : R. N. Loveridge, L. Abbey, J. Stephens, and S. R. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS : R. Milliner and T. Millington.

FORWARDS: F. Russell, M. Short, L. E. Saxby, G. McIlwaine, H. Pitt, E. Comley, G. Foulkes, and J. Hemming.

U. C. S. OLD BOYS

BACK : J. H. Kirkwood.

THREE-QUARTERS : E. H. Hiscocks, B. L. Sutcliffe, R. E. Crewe, and C. E. Brown.

HALF-BACKS : J. A. Farmer and G. McKenzie.

FORWARDS : L. McKenzie, H. L. Wilsdon, E. W. Parkes, R. J. Page, H. J. Woolfe, G. L. Fox, N. H. Trace, and L. Watson.

Referee : Mr. J. T. Curtis (Cheltenham).

THE GAME

The Old Boys, a smart, athletic set of fellows, though on the light side, kicked off, but the ball failing to go ten yards a scrum followed at the centre. The Gloucester forwards, breaking through, dribbled well until a visitor checked cleverly and cleared to Thomas, who was tackled in possession.

Early on the Londoners showed smart handling, but the City tackling was safe. A mark to Loveridge saw the acting captain punt well down, but the Old Boys replied and even play ensued. The visitors were fast on the ball and, tackling low, allowed the Gloucester players little scope. From a line-out McIlwaine broke clear, but his pass to Loveridge was not taken.

Gloucester tried to open out play, but the combination was at fault. Abbey, however, took advantage in some loose work to dribble through cleverly to the full back, who only partially saved. There was a quick pick-up, and the ball being handed to PITT, the latter scored behind the posts, for Millington to kick an easy goal.

From the restart Hemming tried to make his mark, but failed, and the visitors sent to touch 20 yards down. Gloucester were tested with some smart work by the Londoners' backs, but the subsequent kicking was faulty.

Farmer getting the ball away, the Londoners' backs handled neatly, and Browne, the left wing, brought off a fine run but in trying to kick across Millington charged the ball down. Short shone in a good dribble which took the City to midfield, where Millington from a pass by Milliner brought off a brilliant run through the opposition. He reached the full-back, but his pass was knocked on by Kirkwood.

Gloucester rushed close, and twice Milliner was nearly over, being tackled outside.

The Old Boys cleared from a dangerous position with neat combination, and Browne, following up a kick, secured and looked likely to get clear, but Loveridge effected a smothering tackle. From inside their 25 Gloucester started passing in which Thomas joined, but when the ball got to the wing Crowther failed to gather.

Subsequent play was fast and interesting, with the Londoners shaping the better behind the scrum. Stephens checked a dangerous move by the visiting forwards, but mistakes later gave the Old Boys territorial advantage. Gloucester replied with a forward rush, and later McIlwaine from a line-out went clean through to Kirkwood. He attempted a feint to pass, but the visiting full-back did not accept, and when the Cambridge Blue let the ball go it went forward.

Gloucester attacked strongly, but there was a certain amount of wildness and advantage was not taken of scoring chances. The Old Boys worked out of immediate danger to beyond the 25, where Milliner served Millington. The latter yielded to STEPHENS, who cut through, and side-stepping Kirkwood easily, scored between the posts for Millington to convert. Gloucester were thus 10 points up, but hardly deserved such a lead on the play.

On the resumption there was a spell of even play at the centre, but there was little of incident to record. The Gloucester forwards were too strong for the opposition and pressed severely, but the backs were not happy, although good work was occasionally witnessed.

A strong attack on the right was beaten off, and then the ball was suddenly got out to the opposite wing to CROWTHER. The latter hesitated, and then, making up his mind, ran to the left, going clean through and scoring near the posts. Millington added the goal points.

Gloucester had the better of the exchanges on the re-start, but the Old Boys came well away, and after a clever run by Browne he passed to SUTCLIFFE, who beat Thomas and scored a fine try amidst hearty applause. The place-kick failed.

Encouraged by this success, the Londoners showed more neat handling and Browne was sent away nicely. He cleared Loveridge and punted ahead, but Thomas secured and got the ball to touch. Gloucester, aided by a penalty, transferred play to near midfield, but the visitors were very lively and gave the City defence more trouble. There was no more scoring before the interval.

HALF-TIME :

GLOUCESTER 3 goals

OLD BOYS 1 try

The Old Boys re-started, Gloucester replying to the kick-off with a round of passing, but it did not gain much ground. Immediately after the Londoners broke away beautifully and Hiscocks, served by his centre, rounded Crowther and left the City wing. He almost beat Thomas, but in doing so allowed Millington and Crowther to effect a tackle – a grand effort being neutralised.

Gloucester, through Abbey, who made a determined burst, gained an advantage, but there was a lack of finish in the movements, and mistakes in handling were pretty frequent. The Old Boys on the other hand, were not only faster, but handled with accuracy and precision, and were always dangerous on the move. Browne brought off another fine dash, and had hard lines in missing the bounce of the ball after kicking ahead, the ball going to touch, luckily for Gloucester.

It was mainly through the forwards that Gloucester gained relief, Foulkes and Saxby being prominent. Kirkwood saved daringly on several occasions, but there was something wanting in the City attack. Solo efforts by Abbey and Millington looked promising but nothing definite resulted, although Gloucester went very close.

Abbey, being damaged in a tackle, went off, Saxby coming out to centre. Gloucester went strongly for the line on resuming, but the Old Boys set up a sterling defence. Subsequent play was very scrambling between the forwards, with little in it.

Abbey now came back, but the standard of play did not improve. The Gloucester forwards brought off several bursts, Foulkes and Pitt being to the fore, but the City could not gain the desired opening, the marking of the Londoners being exceptionally close. The City at length obtained an attacking position, but a pass from Milliner between his legs went astray, and the Londoners relieved.

Gloucester several times tried to open out, but without much success. From one big rush by the forwards, McIlwaine tried to bullock his way over, but was held up outside. From the ensuing scrum a visitor picked up and, shaking himself free, ran some 30 yards before being tackled by Millington. Gloucester rushed back, and after some desperate work COMLEY gathered and dashed over with a try. Millington failed to convert.

The Old Boys restarted with good dash, and from a loose kick down the field Thomas failed to gather. The ball was taken on and sent over the line, a minor resulting. From the drop-out Gloucester had a passing bout, but was stopped just before the centre.

The closing stages provided the best incident of the game, and the Old Boys met with fitting reward for the splendid fight they had put up. Following a breakdown in a Gloucester attack inside the Londoners' 25, Hiscocks secured and, eluding Crowther, raced away at a great speed. Thomas tried hard to get to his man, and effected a partial check, but HISCOCKS got free and, though chased by Crowther, kept his head and finished a magnificent effort by scoring between the posts. It was one of the best tries seen on the ground, and the scorer received a well-deserved ovation on his achievement. The try was converted, and the end was sounded immediately.

RESULT :

GLoucester 3 goals, 1 try (18 pts.)

U.C.S. OLD BOYS goal, 1 try (8 pts.)

REMARKS

The U.C.S. Old Boys were an unknown team to many Gloucester supporters, but after the excellent showing put up by the Londoners to-day, they will always be welcome visitors to Kingsholm. Though out-weighted forward, the Old Boys were fast and quick on the ball, and their pluck in going down to the rushes of the home front was remarkable.

But for their superiority forward Gloucester would have experienced great difficulty in winning through, for behind the scrum the Old Boys had the pace of their opponent, the handling was far in advance of anything shown by the City backs, and there was better understanding all round. That great try scored by Hiscocks at the end showed the capabilities of the visiting three-quarters in attack, and Brown (on the other wing) and Sutcliffe, too, showed up the weakness of the Gloucester rear division on several occasions.

At half-back, Farmer and McKenzie did remarkably well, and opened out cleverly from difficult positions. Whether gathering the ball from the ground or taking it from passing, the Londoners displayed adaptability and accuracy which were sadly missing at times on the home side, and until the City players improve in this respect they will never reach the ideal.

The one fault in the play of the visitors was their kicking, which was often misjudged, especially in the first half. Kirkwood, at full back, did some wonderful saving from the feet of the Gloucester forwards, but his tackling was not altogether satisfactory. His colleagues, however, made close marking and sure collaring a feature, and many Gloucester attacks were smothered at the outset.

Gloucester did not show good football this afternoon, though the forwards worked hard in the loose and put in some desperate rushes. McIlwaine was distinguished in the open, and Foulkes, Short, Saxby and Pitt dribbled effectively, but a number of promising movements were spoiled through lack of finish.

Milliner got through a lot of sound work, but was somewhat slow in his service to Millington. The latter was easily the City's best player behind, and appeared yards faster than his colleagues, due to his quickness in getting away when in possession.

The Gloucester three-quarters were distinguished only in individual work. The tries scored by Stephens and Crowther were smart efforts, but both the City wings found Hiscocks and Browne a bit too good for them. Abbey played keenly, but I am afraid his best is not up to Gloucester's standard. Thomas gave a creditable display, but it was unusual to see the City custodian beaten so often in the open. Gloucester will need a stronger back division to hold Newport next week.

GLOUCESTER A v. BERRY HILL

CITY SECONDS WIN EASILY

At Berry Hill. Soon after the start, Berry Hill broke away from a scrum, but over-ran the ball. G. Jones from a line-out gained a good slice of ground for the home side. Off-side lost the visitors a good position, the wet ball making handling difficult. The City Seconds showed some good passing, Hough being forced into touch. From the line-out, the visiting forwards broke away, Holford scoring a try, which James failed to convert.

From another good movement Hough scored, Boughton failing. Berry Hill pressed, a series of scrums taking place on the visitors' line, but the Seconds broke away and scored through Franklin, though it looked as though a knock on had taken place. Berry Hill then attacked, and W. Cooper crossed with a try, White failing with the kick.

Half-time :

Gloucester A	3 tries
Berry Hill	1 try

Play was very even on the resumption. Gloucester A took up the running, and from good forward play scored an unconverted try. A movement by the City backs resulted in Hough scoring, and Boughton failing with the kick. Hough again scored from a punt by James, and then Halford crossed with an unconverted[*sic*]. The kick again failed.

Result :

Gloucester A7 tries (21 points)

Berry Hill 1 try (3 points)

REMARKS

Gloucester A were the superior side, and showed much better finish, but the home team hardly deserved to lose by such a large margin.

JC