

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1927.

FOOTBALL NOTES.

(BY "OBSERVER.")

Gloucester brought their season to a close this week in a quartette of matches. On Saturday last the Northern side provided the opposition, and as events turned out it was a weak opposition at that. In the first half Gloucester gave a delightful exhibition of outside play, which made one wonder why they ever forsook such a popular and successful style for the loose forward rush and kick method. They ran up a big margin of points, and the only score against them were three tries, scored by the English International, W. Alexander, whose pace alone was responsible for the points obtained. On his display against Gloucester, Alexander does not appear to be class enough for an International. His defence was lamentably weak, whilst his only asset is his great speed.

Stephens was in fine fettle, and made some delightful cork-screw runs, serving out the "dummy" to all and sundry, whilst the veteran Tommy Millington was, as usual, the mainspring from whom came the City's concerted attacks. In addition, his goal-kicking was wonderfully successful.

On Monday London Welsh were the visitors, and a sterner opposition altogether was provided by the Welshmen, for whom Powell (the International) was in great form. Gloucester also won this game, but by a much reduced margin.

McIlwaine turned out for the City, and received an ovation on entering the field. This popular winger marked his re-entry by a fine display. He was here, there and everywhere, and had a hand in all the City's attacking movements.

Milliner, I thought, gave one of his best displays of the year, and the way he bottled up Powell at times was amusing. Millington combined with the diminutive Cinderford man in a highly successful manner, and we were treated to some fine inside passing between these two players.

Thomas was in his usual good form at back; the threes were together far better than in many games this season, whilst the forwards were a powerful lot in the loose.

The Welsh captain, Powell, and Bartlett, were the pick of the visiting side, Powell showing the touch of "class" in all his play, whilst his great speed was very noticeable.

The City sent a weak team to Cinderford on Tuesday and paid the penalty, the Foresters snatching a victory by a close margin.

The Hereford game brought the City's programme to an end.

The season has been only moderately successful for the City. This is not to be wondered at when one realises that they have been engaged in team-building. Only in one respect can the Kingsholm Club feel elated, and that is with regard to their forwards. They have moulded together a really useful pack, with Saxby as the leader.

Judging by the magnificent display of the ex-scholars, the City can look forward to possessing a brilliant side in a few seasons. If only they could be kept together as a team for a season or two, what a combination would be provided in say, two years' time !

Mr. Arthur Hudson has given us a programme of attractive games during the season 1926-7, and the loyal and popular Secretary has been zealous in carrying out his onerous duties. He can be relied upon to provide as good a fare at Kingsholm as is humanly possible, and to him the thousands of spectators of the Rugby code in Gloucester are grateful.