

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1919

## BOXING DAY FOOTBALL

O.M.T.'s WELL BEATEN AT KINGSHOLM

### CLEVER PLAY BY DIX

Despite the uninviting weather, a good crowd attended at Kingsholm to witness the first of the two holiday matches. Gloucester fielded as advertised, and the Old Merchant Taylors only made one change forward.

The heavy rain had rendered the ground very sloppy in places, especially in front of the grandstand, and the conditions generally militated against correct football. Nevertheless, a well-contested and sporting game resulted, with Gloucester always on top.

The City's superiority was very pronounced forward, and Holford got the ball in the tight scrums nine times out of ten. The heeling was smartly accomplished and with Dix and Hamblin in splendid form the home backs were continually in possession. But the ball was very difficult to hold, and a large percentage of the movements initiated came to naught.

Gloucester pressed continuously from the start, and early on a beautiful bit of combination between Hamblin, Washbourn and Hudson only just failed in a score. A perfectly-judged cross-kick from the right wing in front of goal by Webb placed the ball amongst a dozen Gloucester players, with only one opponent, but the visitor saved miraculously. King (the O.M.T. full back) next saved in daring style from the feet of Voyce, but Gloucester's persistent attack was at length rewarded. Dix swung out a nice pass to Hamblin, who served Webb for the right-winger to dodge over with a neat try.

Then came a smart try by Hamblin. The O.M.T. defence was spread out to check the Gloucester threes. Hamblin spotted a breach and, receiving from Dix, went through without being touched. The place-kick failed, as in the first instance.

The Taylors played up pluckily against a superior combination, and the forwards put in some good loose work, but it was rarely the game was out of their half. A fine run by Washbourn straight up the field, in the course of which he beat the full back, ought to have materialised, but he yielded to Hudson on the 25 line, and the latter was pounced upon from behind directly he was placed in possession.

After this the Taylors, thanks to Cockell, put in a splendid effort, which ended in a sharp attack on the home line. But in a subsequent passing movement Hudson intercepted and kicked down the centre of the ground. Washbourn raced up and sent past King, and was followed by Voyce, who, keeping the ball well under control, dribbled over the line and scored a fine try. Dix missed the goal points. At the interval Gloucester were nine points up.

The ground was in a bad state for the second half, and the continuous rain made the ball very slippery. Gloucester had the ball in safe keeping, and though occasionally the Taylors got dangerous, they were never in the Gloucester end for any length of time.

The City forwards dribbled finely at times, and Smart and Voyce were continually prominent. Holford, too, managed to "hook" the ball with great cleverness; but the back play was at a discount owing to the shocking conditions.

Dix was repeatedly in evidence with smart efforts, and "Father" was heartily cheered when he got amongst the scorers. Following up sharply, Dix charged down a kick, the ball rebounding behind King. This occurred just inside the Taylors' half, and the City half-back dribbling clear away, scored in the corner. Welshman this time failed at goal.

Gloucester added to their score again shortly afterwards. Dix darted away in fine style, and serving Harris with a perfect pass, the latter was enabled to run over with the fifth try. Hamblin's kick for goal hit the cross-bar.

RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 5 tries (15 points)  
Old Merchant Taylors ..... Nil

REMARKS

The Taylors were a beaten side in every department, but they were triers all the way. King (who just missed his Blue at Oxford) played a sound game at full back, and Watson and Cockell shaped well at three-quarter with the few chances they had. Cheeseman, however, was the outstanding player on the side, and saved repeatedly. The forwards were outclassed in the tight, but were a useful lot in the loose.

Welshman's defence was not seriously tested at full back for Gloucester, but his display all round was most encouraging, and he should certainly be persevered with. He got plenty of power behind his kicks, but he might with advantage use his left foot more and get the ball to touch.

The three-quarters were handicapped by the conditions, and that many mistakes occurred in handling was excusable. Dix and Hamblin made an ideal partnership at half, and the forwards well maintained their reputation.