

# THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1924

## TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. OXFORD UNIVERSITY

NOTABLE TRIUMPH FOR THE CITY

UNIVERSITY BEATEN BY SEVEN POINTS IN BRILLIANT GAME

The visit of the Oxford University team to Kingsholm to-day was one of the most attractive fixtures on the City Club's card, and it was most unfortunate that a full side was not available.

Dr. Taylor, who tore a muscle at the back of the thigh on Saturday, was compelled to stand down, and Collins was also not available, so that Gloucester were without both the usual half-backs. The vacancies were filled by the inclusion of R. Milliner (Cinderford) and G. Thomas, who in the last few matches has assisted the A team. F. J. Seabrook was also disabled with a cut hand in a motor accident and could not play. This let in H. Roberts at forward.

Oxford, who have been beaten twice this season, were without Wallace and Jacob (the International three-quarters), and the team underwent a re-arrangement.

The afternoon turned out dull, and the attendance did not come up to expectations.

Teams : —

### GLOUCESTER

BACK: T. Millington.

THREE-QUARTERS: S. Brown, H. D. Mackay, E. D. Pope, and S. Crowther.

HALF-BACKS: R. Milliner and G. Thomas.

FORWARDS: T. Voyce (capt.), F. Ayliffe, A. Hall, S. Duberley, M. Short, F. Ford, W. Hemmings, and H. Roberts.

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY

BACK : C. P. M. Green (Trinity).

THREE-QUARTERS: R. L. Raymond (New South Wales and New College), I. S. Smith (Winchester and Brasenose), G. P. S. Macpherson (capt.) (Fettes and Oriel), and G. G. Aitken (New Zealand and St. John's).

HALF-BACKS : H. Kittermaster (Rugby and University) and N. L. Macdonald (Loretto and Trinity).

FORWARDS: R. J. Hillard (St. Paul's and Christ Church), A. de H. Boyd (Rugby and Trinity), V. G. Wesche (Parramatta, N.S.W., and New College), G. Gaiger (Denstone and St. John's), C. D. Arbuthnot (Blundell's and Balliol), B. W. Preston (Rugby and New College), F. B. Jones (Bedford and Brasenose), and W. N. Roughead (Rugby and Oriel).

Referee : Mr. Fear (Somerset).

## THE GAME

The University, a big hefty set of athletes, were accorded a hearty reception on entering the field. Voyce quickly followed with his men and the Gloucester captain kicked off. There was only a poor return, and from the first scrum Ayliffe led the home forwards in a good dribble, which was not checked until the visitors 25 was reached. Here Gloucester heeled from a scrum, and Milliner feeding THOMAS, the latter dropped a lovely goal within three minutes of the kick-off, loud cheers greeting the effort.

Resuming, there was a spell of even play at the centre, and then the City made headway with a penalty. From a long line out, Hall gathered and fed Thomas who tried a cut through but was upset, the ball getting loose. Pope and Crowther dribbled some yards before the ball was tuned to touch. Oxford relieved with a penalty kick, but Millington sent back and found touch with his return.

A loose rush by the visitors was well stopped, and Gloucester retaliated with a sharp attack which might have promised well but for an infringement. Gloucester continued the pressure, the forwards worrying the opposition and giving the University no rest. A passing movement by the City backs and a punt down sent the ball to Green, who dodged several opponents but finally fell to a good tackle. Gloucester, with a sharp forward burst led to a hot attack on the Oxford line, and from a loose scrum Milliner was nearly over, being held up outside. Later the University touched down.

After the drop out Gloucester confined play to their opponents' end for a time, but at length the University backs were sent away in a lovely movement. Smith, the last to receive, put on great pace and reached the 25 line before he was collared. He, however, got the ball away to AITKEN, who was backing up, and the centre scored in the corner – a very fine try. Raymond made a fine attempt at conversion.

Gloucester restarted, and almost at once Kittermaster secured and broke clean through. With his backs in position there was every chance of a try, but Gloucester got back and saved. For off-side at the scrum, however, the City were penalised, and RAYMOND with a splendid kick landed a goal, giving the University a two points lead.

Gloucester restarted in dashing style, and fine forward work caused pressure on the Oxford line. The defence held out for a time, but the City men were not to be denied, and the forwards going over in a body, DUBERLEY was credited with a try, which Millington grandly converted, and the City again took the lead amidst great cheering.

On the resumption the Gloucester forwards twice heeled, and Milliner got the ball away nicely. In the second instance Mackay punted ahead, but Green picked up, and racing round eluded the opposition. He finally passed to Macpherson, who kicked and found touch well beyond the half-way flag. Gloucester quickly changed the venue and worked to their opponents' end. The cleverness of the opposing backs, however, brought play to midfield. Here Raymond brought off a powerful run, and was only brought down by Millington and another.

Working to their backs, Oxford attacked, and following a breakaway a pass inside to MACPHERSON led to the acting captain running over between the posts. Raymond added the goal points, and the lead again changed hands.

Gloucester had the better of the exchanges on the resumption, and with a keen attack might have scored, but the centre play was weak.

The City pack, however, working desperately, beat the opposition, and after just failing to cross, another rush took them over, and MILLINER was credited with a try. Millington missing the goal.

This was scoring indeed, and the crowd were raised to a high pitch of excitement. Fourteen points to eleven was the score in Gloucester's favour, and soon after the kick-off a combined movement by Milliner and Thomas led to Gloucester gaining a position some dozen yards from the line. Oxford got possession, but VOYCE, on the alert, snapped up Macdonald's pass, and forced himself over in the corner for a try, which Millington failed to convert.

Oxford restarted, but Gloucester held their own to the interval.

HALF-TIME :

GLO'STER ..... 3 goals (1d) 1 try (17 pts.)

OXFORD ..... 2 goals (1p) 1 try (11 pts.)

It had been a wonderful first half for scoring, and the open character of the play delighted the crowd.

Oxford restarted, and early on the Gloucester backs were set on the move, but Crowther finished feebly. The effort, however, led to Gloucester attacking, and Oxford were pressed close to their line.

There was a stoppage owing to Kittermaster being knocked out in effecting a save. On resuming Macpherson went outside half, and Kittermaster was placed on the wing.

A breakaway by Macdonald relieved, but the passing went astray, and Thomas kicked back, but failed to gather the ball after following up. Immediately after, however, Gloucester should have crossed, but Hall missed a wide pass.

Fine loose work by both sides was heartily applauded, and the City once went very close. The University relieved with passing, Raymond running strongly until he fell to a superb tackle by Millington. Desperate work followed, both teams playing all out. The home forwards were performing grandly, but the University were always dangerous when the ball got outside.

A clever movement, in which all the backs took part, left Smith in possession but though the International shook off the attentions of Voyce and another, he lost the ball and Gloucester saved. Still Oxford were dangerously close, and the City defence had an anxious time. Finally a kick over the line sent the ball dead.

After the drop-out a punt by Thomas was misfielded by Green, and Crowther had a good chance, but he just failed to take advantage, and the visiting custodian recovered. Exciting play ensued in which Gloucester shone, but an intercepted pass by Kittermaster let the Oxonian through to Millington, who, however, safely brought his man down.

Subsequent play was exceptionally fast, the Oxford backs bringing off more brilliant movements, but the home defence proved equal to the occasion. Smith, and then Aitken, were prominent, and the latter punted over Millington's head and raced for the touch, but Thomas got back and kicked dead. It was exciting football, and easily the best game seen at Kingsholm for a long time.

Gloucester checked two more dangerous attacks, but from another open movement the ball was given to RAYMOND, who, getting at once into his stride, beat Millington and scored behind the posts. The same player converted and only a point now divided the teams.

Gloucester restarted, and strong forward play gave the City territorial advantage for a time. A useful kick to touch sent play to mid-field, where Brown was "legged" just as he was breaking clear. A promising forward rush by Gloucester was checked by Smith and Aitken, and then the Oxford backs were off again. This time, however, nothing resulted, and Gloucester made headway through Voyce, Milliner and Thomas. Getting closer the City might easily have scored, but a knock-on ensued right on the line.

Oxford, by strenuous efforts, eased the pressure, but the Gloucester forwards came back in irresistible style, and the defence being brushed aside SHORT gathered and ran over with a try amidst tremendous cheering. Millington failed at goal, but Gloucester increased their lead to four points.

There was no slackening off in pace on the restart, and the struggle was a tremendous one. The home forwards stuck to their work grandly, and gave the University a terrible grueling. A powerful run by Voyce placed Gloucester in a good position, and a kick through sent the ball to Green. The latter had his punt charged down by HEMMING and the ball rebounding towards the line, the City forward only had to pick up and put it over the line for a try. Voyce made a grand attempt to convert.

To the end the game was finely contested. Gloucester had a further chance of adding to their lead, but it was not accepted, and then right at the end Raymond made a brilliant effort for Oxford, falling to a tackle by Millington ten yards outside.

#### RESULT :

GLO'STER ..... 3 goals (1d) 3 tries (23 pts.)  
OXFORD U. .... 3 goals (1p) 1 try (16 pts.)

#### REMARKS

Gloucester's triumph came as a veritable surprise, but the City rose to a great occasion, and in a game brimful of exciting incidents and brilliant movements were deserved winners.

To the forwards chief credit is due for the splendid victory. They gave a superb performance this afternoon, and though opposed to a fast, virile, and clever set, always held a bit in hand. The whole pack was worthy the occasion, and reached a standard fully up to Gloucester's best.

Behind the scrum, Oxford's brilliance was the great feature, and only a heroic defence could have kept such brilliant attackers in subjection. Raymond was the outstanding figure, and the powerful runs and handing off the Australian accomplished made him a great favourite of the crowd. The other players in the line – Aitken, Smith, and Macpherson, all Scottish Internationals – shone at intervals, and the combination generally of the four was excellent. But thanks to close marking scoring chances were reduced to a minimum.

Milliner did splendid work at scrum half for the city, and Thomas did far better in the outside position than in any previous match this season. The three-quarter line could not compare with the opposition, but the men did their best, and there was no serious failure.

Millington, at full-back, was beaten twice – by Aitken and Raymond – but the City custodian accomplished a great afternoon's work, and stopped several apparently certain tries. Green also did well, though he was responsible for Gloucester's last try.

The game furnished one of the finest all-round displays witnessed at Kingsholm for a long time, and, needless to say, Gloucester's victory, unexpected as it was, was hailed with great enthusiasm.