

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1927

RUGBY REFLECTIONS

(FROM W.B.'s NOTEBOOK)

GLOUCESTER'S SIX WINS

A PROMISING OUTSIDE HALF DISCOVERED

Gloucester added to their triumphs on Wednesday evening at the expense of Cinderford, the City's experimental team – six reserves were drafted into the side owing to David, Thompson, J. Stephens, McIlwaine, Voyce and Seabrook standing down – gaining a surprising victory by 20 points to nil.

The Foresters, after beating Lydney on Saturday, were regarded as possessing more than an outside chance of winning at Kingsholm, but the side gave a disappointing display, and in all the finished football witnessed the visitors were outclassed.

The Cinderford forwards played a bustling game, and in the scrums had quite a fair share of the ball, but the team had a poor idea of aggressive tactics and were rarely dangerous.

In the second half the Foresters lost the services of Annetts (wing three-quarter – and Rodway (one of the best of the forwards), but long before their retirement Gloucester had established a winning lead, and the City were full value for their big win.

Gloucester have been on the look-out for an outside half to come into the team when David returns to India next month, and first impressions of Don Meadows, on his debut in senior football, suggests he is the player for the job.

I had seen Meadows in schools football, and always regarded the boy International as a little wonder. On the small side, he has taken time to develop, but he has kept in contact with the game, and in turn assisted Archdeacon Continuation School, Widden Old Boys, and Gloucester A – a splendid training ground.

It was a test for the recruit to be put up against such bustling opposition as Cinderford, but Meadows came through splendidly, and was a big success in Wednesday's match. Safe in handling, he exhibited real cleverness in opening out and varied his tactics with a skill that kept the opposition on the *qui vive*. The short punt ahead, when the defence was spread-eagled, was exploited at times, and this movement led up to the try obtained by James.

Meadows also scored himself from a repass by Abbey, and the perfect transfers he nearly always delivered was one of the features of his display. If young in years – he is only 18 – Meadows is old in football experience, and he will recognise one success does not make a first-class player. His debut, however, was most encouraging, and his future career in higher grade Rugby will be followed with keen interest.

Though Cinderford were mainly concerned in close forward work, and their smothering tactics paid well at times, Gloucester found opportunities of opening up the play, and there were many periods of bright and interesting football.

The front, under Saxby's leadership, were the cleverer set, and some capital handling was indulged in on occasions. The captain was always well in the van, and he led up to the first try scored by Abbey.

Milliner enjoyed himself at scrum half, and accomplished some smart work in attack. At three-quarter the young Gloucester line were too fast and nippy for the Foresters, but the centres did not make full use of their wings – Baldwin (Stroud) and Hough. The latter scarcely received a pass from Abbey.

Boughton was in great kicking form at full-back, rarely failing to find touch with huge punts which often covered half the length of the ground. The Cinderford backs always played into his hands by kicking aimlessly into the open, and the Forest forwards had a gruelling time in running about the field.

Bullock, the Cinderford custodian, was the most useful man on the side. He displayed rare pluck in going down to rushes, and on more than one occasion staved off disaster. Rodway, Coombes and Meek were about the best of the visiting forwards, who worked hard, but with little skill or finish. Cinderford must have shown far different form to have beaten Rugby and Lydney, both away from home.

JC