

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1927

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. OXFORD UNIVERSITY

CITY'S BRILLIANT SECOND HALF RECOVERY

UNIVERSITY BEATEN AFTER LEADING AT INTERVAL

For their match at Oxford to-day, Gloucester lacked the services of Boughton (full-back), and James (three-quarter), but a useful side made the journey. Oxford had a rearranged team, and among the absentees was D. F. Landale, the captain.

Teams : —

GLOUCESTER

BACK : G. Thomas.

THREE-QUARTERS : A. Hough, J. Stephens, A. M. David, and R. N. Loveridge.

HALF-BACKS : R. Milliner and D. Meadows.

FORWARDS : L. E. Saxby (capt.), J. K. Evans, J. Hemming, A. T. Voyce, F. J. B. Molohan (Oxford University), T. Wadley, R. Smart, and E. Comley.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY

BACK : F. B. W. Mills (Lincoln).

THREE-QUARTERS : E. G. Taylor (Trinity), P. C. Alexander (Trinity), N. A. Doggart (Magdalen), and W. E. Lusty (University).

HALF-BACKS : F. J. Chapman (Worcester), and J. A. Nunn (New).

FORWARDS : T. W. Gubb (University) (capt.), J. H. F. Edmiston (B.N.C.), D. J. W. Dryburgh (Oriol), J. H. Flynn (Christ Church), A. E. C. Prescott (Christ Church), N. H. Jones (Oriol), E. Braithwaite (Queen's), and D. S. Troup (John's).

Referee : H. D. Stoop.

A. Hall had to cry off at the last minute, and the vacancy forward in the Gloucester team was filled by F. J. B. Molohan, of Oxford University. The weather conditions were perfect, but there were only a few hundred spectators.

THE GAME

Saxby kicked off for Gloucester, and a good forward burst ended in the ball being picked up and thrown to Loveridge, who was pulled down inside the Oxford 25. The University cleared with a loose dribble, but off-side cost them a penalty. Saxby had a long shot for goal, but his kick fell short. Later Loveridge had a left-foot drop for goal, but only forced a minor.

Good punting by Oxford brought the play to the centre, where the backs attempted passing, but it was smothered by close marking. Chapman later opened out nicely, and Doggart, breaking through smartly, went up to Thomas and passed to TAYLOR, who ran in easily. Lusty converted, and Oxford were five points up after five minutes' play.

Resuming, Oxford again attacked, but a knock-on spoiled the movement. Loose dribbling, in which Saxby and Voyce shone, gave Gloucester a nice slice of ground, and David, with a sharp run, further improved. Oxford, however, worked back by the aid of penalties, and centre play followed.

Gloucester were being beaten for possession in the scrums, and so far the backs had seen little of the ball. By good forward work the City obtained an excellent position, and the forwards, with a combined burst, went very close. A penalty, however, gave the University relief.

Gloucester rushed back with good footwork, and the Oxford defence was sorely tested. Some hot scrums were contested close in, from one of which Milliner tried hard to make an opening, but his pass was not accepted.

A big punt by Oxford sent the ball well up the field to Thomas, who turned his back to his opponent and punted over his head. The ball, however, was captured by Edmiston, who started passing. Doggart got the ball out to TAYLOR, who ran hard and scored a good try. Lusty failed at goal. This score emphasised Oxford's opportunism and the lack of pace in the Gloucester side.

Within two minutes of the restart the Oxford backs were in possession, and Lusty was well away with several colleagues in attendance, but he held on too long, and was brought down. Milliner showed up strongly twice in quick succession, but Gloucester could not make much impression. A fine kick by Doggart placed Oxford within a couple of yards from the Gloucester line, and from the scrum the ball came out on the Gloucester side. DRYBURGH nipped round and scored a soft try. No goal resulted.

In subsequent play the City forwards did good work in the loose, and Loveridge, after a sharp dash, cross-kicked for WADLEY to burst over with a try. Saxby failed to convert.

Gloucester did better after this, and attacked strongly. Just before the interval Voyce had a shot for goal from a penalty, but missed.

HALF-TIME :
OXFORD UNIVERSITY 11 Pts.
GLOUCESTER 3 Pts.

In actual play Gloucester had done quite well, attacking strongly at times, mainly through the forwards, but the backs did not get much of the ball from the scrums, and Hough, except for an occasional tackle, was practically idle. Oxford showed themselves smarter in combination and Taylor's two tries were well deserved.

Soon after the restart, Milliner got the ball away, and Stephens fed Hough, but the latter was brought down by Lusty before he could get moving. Oxford rushed well from a loose scrum, and became dangerous, but Gloucester managed to save close in.

Well-judged kicking gave the City relief, but Oxford returned to the attack with passing. Taylor, however, was forced to kick, and Meadows effected a nice clearance. Inside their own twenty-five, Gloucester broke away, and Mills being at fault, Loveridge followed up, kicked ahead, and re-gathered. The pass inside was well taken, and SAXBY being served the captain dashed over with a fine try, which Stephens converted. Encouraged by this success Gloucester played up strongly, and STEPHENS equalised the scores with a splendid penalty goal.

These two successes gave Gloucester every encouragement, and the City resumed with great dash. Oxford twice broke away from the scrum with dribbles, but they were checked in time. The visitors replied with similar tactics but Mills saved in daring fashion. In a loose scramble Smart was tackled, and in falling injured his leg, necessitating his being carried off.

A man short the City held their own for a time, but a big loose rush by Oxford forwards looked dangerous until checked by Thomas. Working well together, Gloucester changed the situation, and Oxford in turn were pressed. Both Loveridge and Hough were served with passes, but they could not get away from Taylor and Lusty respectively.

Gloucester maintained a position inside their opponents' half, the forwards holding up splendidly. The backs, too, were doing better. From a penalty STEPHENS had another place for goal from 40 yards out and, with a lovely kick, covered the cross-bar, giving the City a three points lead.

For the next few minutes Oxford were outplayed, and Gloucester had hard lines in not adding to their score. Twice Oxford saved under their posts, and Voyce was only pushed to touch a few yards outside. Gloucester maintained the pressure, and LOVERIDGE scored a brilliant try, Stephens converting. The game was well contested to the end, and MILLINER scored, the goal kick failing.

RESULT :

GLOUCESTER ... 4 goals (2p) 2 tries (22 pts.)
OXFORD 1 goal 2 tries (11 pts.)

REMARKS

Gloucester's brilliant recovery in the second half came as a welcome surprise to their supporters. All round the City outclassed the University, the forwards especially playing a great game. All did finely in this department and deserve the fullest praise for a wonderful show behind.

Oxford held advantage in the first half, but they did little afterwards. On the other hand the City men improved splendidly, and there was some clever work exhibited at times.

Milliner was exceptionally smart, and Meadows played confidently all through. David and Loveridge proved a strong wing, but Stephens and Hough did their part well; but Stephens' goal-kicking contributed not a little to the City's handsome victory. Thomas was very sound at full-back. Altogether a great win.

JC