

# THE CITIZEN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1907

## TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. OLD EDWARDIANS

Continuing their tour, the Old Edwardians (who were beaten at Exeter the previous day by 13 points to 3) appeared at Kingsholm to oppose the City.

There were several changes in the home team from the side which defeated the Taylors, Wood, Beard, Gent, H. Smith, Holford, Craddock, and Blackford coming into the team. The start was delayed till 2.45.

Teams : –

Gloucester. – A. Wood, back; A. Hudson, G. Cook, E. Hall, and J. Beard, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent and H. Smith, half-backs; G. Vears, W. Johns, D. Hollands, H. Collins, G. Matthews, G. Holford, R. Craddock, and W. Blackford, forwards.

Old Edwardians. – G. E. Assinder, back; Max Rennie, E. W. Assinder, F. J. Breeden, and Greenup, three-quarter backs; H. R. Somerville and A. W. Ibbotson, half-backs; T. H. Walker, A. C. F. Assinder, J. Manton, R. G. Brodrick, D. Adams, E. Walker, R. Caddick, and H. W. Andrew, forwards.

Referee : Mr. A. J. Lawes (Bristol).

## THE GAME

Vears kicked off for Gloucester from the Dean's Walk goal, but some of the players being in front of the ball a scrum was ordered at the centre. The Old Boys heeled from the first scrum, but the passing broke down and no ground was gained.

A penalty against the City was well returned by Wood, who found touch nicely at half-way. Taking advantage of a wild pass by an opponent Hollands ran down, and fielding cleverly passed to Johns, who was collared. The ball, however, getting loose, the City had a fine chance, but the forwards over-ran the ball.

The Gloucester forwards tried to open out from a line-out, but fumbling took place, and the Edwardians dribbled past the centre, where Wood saved. The visitors rushing well reached the home line, but Hall effected a nice clearance. The City made further headway from a throw out, Holford, Johns, and Vears shining in some passing. The movement was continued, the ball going to touch in the Old Boys' 25.

Gloucester were shaping poorly all round, and the visitors quickly changed the venue. Loose play took the Old Boys well inside the City 25, where E. Assinder dropped for goal, the ball striking one of the uprights and rebounding into the field of play – a lucky escape for Gloucester.

The game still went in favour of the Edwardians and from a pass by E. Assinder, Greenup had a clear opening, but he missed the ball altogether, and Hudson kicked out of danger. Gloucester came away with a bout of passing from their 25, but Beard failed to take from Cook.

Next G. Assinder made a remarkable save under difficulties, and the Old Boys' forwards shining in a good rush, the Gloucester end was visited. Wood, with good kicks, sent the game to the Edwardians' half, where from a line-out Vears secured and passing to H. Smith, the latter scored a good try. Wood failed with the place kick.

On the resumption H. Smith and Hudson were prominent with a smart effort down touch, but the former missed the re-pass when there was a possible chance. Gent opening out, the ball came right across the third line to Beard, but the latter fumbled. Ensuing play was scrappy, and the keenness of the Old Boys prevented the City gaining many openings.

Weakness at half by Gloucester allowed the visitors to get away, but Wood was at home and sent them back. The Old Boys, however, were not to be denied, and following clever work by E. Assinder, Greenup scored smartly on the left wing. The kick at goal was a failure.

Wood dropped out, and after a spell of even play the Gloucester forwards wheeled in fine style. Using their feet well, the ball was taken past the opposition, and Cook coming up took the ball over the line and scored. Wood's shot for goal was unsuccessful.

The visitors played up strongly on the re-start, and twice the Gloucester line narrowly escaped. Greenup had another chance from a pass by E. Assinder, but he curled up before Hudson and tamely allowed himself to be collared. With a loose rush Gloucester came away, and G. Assinder was beaten, but recovered in wonderful style. Soon afterwards the interval was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester .....	2 tries
Edwardians .....	1 try

The Old Boys re-started, and the first item of interest was a run and kick down the field by Cook. Several Gloucester men followed up keenly, and G. Assinder only saved near the line. The Edwardians worked out, one of their forwards executing a strong burst, but he lost the ball. A City player picked up and sent to Hall, who fed Hudson. Running down touch the International cross-kicked and afterwards put his men on side, but Hubert Smith was just robbed of a try.

Wood forced a minor on the drop-out, but immediately after the Gloucester forwards broke away with an irresistible rush which ended in Matthews scoring near the posts. This time Wood converted, making the score 11-3.

There was a period of centre play on the resumption, but Hubert Smith eventually got off with a dribble. Craddock subsequently gathered but gave a bad pass.

A minute later Hall and Cook shone in some loose play, and the ball being kicked over the line Beard shot up and touched down with the fourth try. Wood made a grand attempt to convert, the ball going just wide of the upright.

Resuming, the Edwardians made a brief visit to the home end, but they were driven out, and a dashing burst by the City forwards took them to the other end. Here a visitor tried to kick out, but sent the ball straight to Hubert Smith, who ran over easily behind the posts. Wood added the extra points.

The Edwardians played up pluckily on resuming, and they by no means had the worst of the exchanges. Gloucester were hotly pressed for a time, and eventually from a sharp burst a visitor crossed in the corner, no goal resulting. Following the drop-out E. Hall secured from Assinder's return and cross-kicked. He put his men on side, and Hudson getting up in time was credited with a try, which Wood converted.

Cook shone in some clever footwork when the game was continued, but G. Assinder stopped the movement in daring fashion. Next the Gloucester backs combined in a passing bout, only to see Cook thrown to touch. Somerville, with a strong run, nearly got clear for the Old Boys, and then Gent ran back to Assinder inside the visitors' half. He punted over the back's head, but the ball went to touch.

Hudson subsequently had a big dash for the corner, but he was upset rather heavily. Taking advantage of mistakes by the City, the Old Boys rushed right to the other end and were nearly over, Cook bringing off a grand tackle. Hudson responded with a strong burst, but was tackled when looking dangerous. Before the end the Edwardians got going again, and Brodrick, after a splendid burst from a line-out, ran over behind the posts. The goal-kick was successful.

RESULT :

Gloucester ..... 3 goals 3 tries (24 points)  
Edwardians ..... 1 goal 2 tries (11 points)

## REMARKS

Gloucester's form to-day was decidedly scrappy, and the Old Boys were by no means worsted to the extent represented by the score. Playing a hard, bustling game throughout, the visitors gave the City many anxious moments, and the three tries credited to them hardly did justice to the amount of attacking they did.

Gloucester were weak at half, Gent's shoulder giving way, and though he kept on to the end he was totally unable to do himself credit.

The three-quarters did well at periods, but on both sides the handling was erratic. Wood accomplished some fine kicking and saving, and Assinder, on the other side, stopped some ugly rushes in daring style.

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