

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1901

SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. OLD EDWARDIANS

Though the Edwardians played a hard game throughout they were well beaten in every department. Defence was undoubtedly the strong point in the play of the visitors, and in this respect the veteran Nicol, and his colleagues in the centre, did an immense amount of work. Forward, too, the Old Boys showed up well at times in the loose, but the team were afforded few opportunities of displaying their abilities in attack.

The play of the home team was a trifle uneven, and though scoring so heavily their exhibition was not above criticism. In the first half the men again displayed a tendency to collar too high, with the result that much good work was nullified.

Forward, Gloucester got the ball almost as often as they liked in the tight scrums, but occasionally the leather hung in the back row. This naturally hampered the half-backs somewhat. However, Goddard and G. Hall had abundant chances to exhibit their cleverness and resource, and few of them were allowed to pass without something being done. Hall got the ball away with remarkable dexterity, and though the visiting backs kept a sharp look out on Goddard the latter seldom failed to set his three-quarters going.

In the third line there were many brilliant bits of combination, but both "Whacker" Smith and Clutterbuck were occasionally at fault in taking their passes. The wing men, however, did some fine work, and the fact that five out of the ten tries were credited to them testifies to their smartness.

In the centre Cook and Stephens performed splendidly, combining well and passing with judgment. The City forwards were opposed to a big lot, but all round they were the cleverer set.

The men, however, would do well not to resort to picking up at every conceivable opportunity. Ground was lost several times by doing this. Hall played a keen game, and Fred Click, Miller, Spiers, and Watkins were prominent at various times. A word of commendation is also due to Oswell for his clever work in the line out.

Romans and Ravenhill both gave a capital exhibition at full back. The latter had a tremendous amount of work to do, and could not by any means be held responsible for the heavy score piled up by the City. The whole of the backs showed up well in defence, and of the forwards Manton was easily the pick.

Gloucester's score of 44 points, added to the Clifton score, makes their total for two matches 118 points.

There were one or two casualties during the game, but fortunately nothing of a serious nature. Next week Gloucester are due at Northampton, where they will probably find the opposition a bit stronger than Clifton and the Edwardians.

RESULT :

Gloucester ... 6 goals (1 m), 5 tries (44 points)
Edwardians 1 goal (p) (3 points)