

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1903

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. OLD EDWARDIANS

ONE-SIDED GAME

GLOUCESTER WIN EASILY

Gloucester were at home to-day to the Old Edwardians, this being the return fixture between the teams.

There was only a poor attendance when at three o'clock the visitors took the field.

The following were the teams :—

GLOUCESTER	Positions	OLD EDWARDIANS
L. Vears	Backs	T. H. Ravenhill
C. Smith	Three-quarter	Clare
G. Romans (Capt.)	Backs	Setton
J. Stephens	"	Lister
A. Hudson	"	Goodwin
G. Williams	Half-Backs	Somerville
J. Thorne	"	E. L. B. Ravenhill
B. Parham	Forwards	V. Smith
G. Vears	"	South
A. Hawker	"	Reynolds
W. Johns	"	Crofts
A. Purton	"	Manton
J. Gough	"	Alabaster
G. H. Smith	"	Cook
F. Pegler	"	Horton

THE GAME

The Old Boys kicked off, and play opened in the visitors' half. Thorne was prominent early in getting the ball away, but Williams knocked-on. A lucky kick by a visitor sent play to touch beyond the centre, but the home backs came away with a nice bit of combination. Romans and C. Smith re-passed cleverly on the right, and a try seemed probable, but there was an infringement, and the opening was lost.

The Edwardians relieved by the aid of a free, but Gloucester returned to the attack, chiefly through Hudson. Off-side by the home forwards lost ground, but the Midlanders failed to get into their quarters. A kick down to Vears saw the latter return and put his man on-side. Fielding neatly, Romans burst through, and, passing to Parham, the latter scored an easy try. Romans failed at goal.

Resuming, there was a spell of even play, but Gloucester gained the ascendancy again, and ought to have had another score, but the play lacked finish. An exchange of kicks between the rival full backs resulted in little ground being made. Then Hudson cross punted, but it was a weak attempt, the ball going behind him. Romans got back and fielded, and passed to Smith, who kicked to touch.

Ensuing play was scrambling, but was in favour of Gloucester. A capital loose rush, in which Johns and Gough were prominent, led to a sharp attack on the visitors' line, but Ravenhill saved.

Clever kicking by Stephens under difficulties was applauded, and the Edwardians were sorely pressed. An apparent mistake by Ravenhill on the line led to Parham scoring, but the referee ruled the Gloucester forward off-side, and penalised the City team.

The kick was well returned, and play continued in the Midlanders' end. From a punt by Stephens, Williams picked up, and, passing to Parham, the latter scored his second try. Romans missed the goal.

Resuming, Thorne was prominent with a clever breakaway, and a round of neat passing looked all over for a try, but Hudson was pulled down on the line. The Edwardians worked out, and aided by a useful forward burst reached the centre. Exchange kicking followed, ending in Vears racing across the field and punting to well inside the Edwardians' half.

Gloucester assumed the aggressive again, and Pegler picked up in a loose rush and handed to Vears who made an effort to cross under the posts, but he was held up. The visitors got out of danger, but a splendidly judged punt by L. Vears sent them back. The Gloucester forwards got in a capital rush, Parham leading, but fumbling lost a good opening.

After this the Gloucester backs were several times given possession, but the passing was poor, Romans and Hudson being at fault. The game was scrambling, for though Gloucester were having all the game there was an entire absence of finish in the movements behind the scrum. Williams was conspicuous with a strong run which took him well down the field, but he was not backed up.

Close forward work ensued, the visitors doing well, but Thorne stopped their rushes in daring fashion. The Yorkley player, out of some loose play, picked up and handed to Hudson, who shook off an opponent and scored near the posts. Romans again failed at goal. Soon afterwards the interval arrived.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 3 tries
Edwardians Nil

Gloucester resumed, and the home forwards at once went off with a big burst. Ravenhill checked them for a moment, but the ball got loose, and Williams with a strong dash was almost over in the corner. There was a cessation of operations owing to Parham getting hurt, and he had to retire.

Immediately on resuming the Edwardians were penalised, and Romans had a shot for goal, but missed the mark, a minor resulting.

Stephens replied to the drop-out, and Gloucester were at once placed in an attacking position. The City forwards burst away and looked dangerous, but Ravenhill saved. However, Williams, receiving from Thorne, brought off a fine run, and beating all the opposition, scored behind the posts. Romans this time added the extra points.

The visitors resumed, and from the first scrum Stephens executed a pretty run. His pass, however, was taken by an opponent, who ran down and kicked past Vears. There was a clear opening, but Hawker got back and kicked to touch. C. Smith was instrumental in changing the venue, but though play favoured Gloucester, the display left something to be desired.

Thorne and Williams displayed clever combination, but could not quite get clear. Then Romans came across and fed C. Smith nicely, but the latter missed the ball. A determined rush, led by Johns, invaded the Edwardians' half, and the visitors were hard pressed. In a loose scramble Williams picked up, and going down the touch-line, reached Ravenhill, when he transferred to C. Smith, who scored in the corner. Romans failed to convert.

Resuming, the Edwardians, taking advantage of the home men's mistakes, found a footing in the Gloucester half, but play was dreadfully scrambling. The Gloucester forwards at length secured a good opening, but Hawker attempted to pick up instead of dribbling, and was collared. Smart work by the visitors' left wing gave them an advantage, but Gloucester soon came away, Williams being prominent with a good run. His pass, however, was intercepted, and a visitor effected a good clearance.

Clever play by L. Vears led to his side assuming the aggressive, and the Edwardians had something to do to keep their lines intact. A passing movement looked prominent, but Romans sent a bad transfer to Smith, and a probable score was consequently lost.

A little later Thorne fed Williams nicely, and the latter ran nearly to the line, when he passed to Romans, but the captain failed to cross. Immediately after Hawker was only pulled down just outside after a strong burst. The Edwardians cleared with a forward burst, but Stephens picked up, and tricking the opposition, scored a neat try. The place-kick failed.

Continuing, Gloucester outplayed their opponents, and following smart work behind the scrum, C. Smith scored the seventh try, but again Romans failed to convert. Keeping up the pressure, Gloucester scored again through Hudson, after a fine dash, Romans goaling.

The Old Edwardians made a spurt on resuming, but the effort was not sustained, and Gloucester took up the running again. A beautiful bit of combination between C. Smith and Williams gave the latter a nice try, which was converted, and just before the end Hudson, with another dashing run, notched Gloucester's tenth try. Romans this time failed to goal from an easy position.

RESULT :

Gloucester	3 goals 7 tries (36 points)
Edwardians	Nil

REMARKS

The Old Boys furnished but a moderate opposition, and were badly beaten all round. Large as the score was, if Gloucester had only utilised a decent proportion of their chances, the total of points might easily have reached the half-century. Gloucester showed some remarkably clever work at times, but there were lapses of scrambling play which made the game dull and uninteresting.

In the first half the City backs fumbled repeatedly, and the passing was crude and ineffective. Overhead transfers were sandwiched with something approaching skittle-playing, with the result that a number of openings went astray.

As the game progressed there was an improvement, and in the last quarter of an hour there was some really brilliant combination on the part of the home backs.

Forward, when the City eight packed properly, they were clearly the superior bunch, but there was a slackness at times in scrum work. For individual merit, Parham, Hawker, Johns, and Gough played a fine game, the former performing splendidly in the open.

The appearance of Thorne at half-back made a great difference, and he and Williams got on well together. The Yorkley player was a glutton for work, being as sharp as a needle at the scrums, and getting the ball away time after time. Williams made full use of the opportunities afforded him, and besides scoring a couple of tries himself, he created numerous openings for the third line.

The Gloucester three-quarter line was good and bad in turn. The players know the correct game, but to-day the passing was too often ill-judged and erratic, and on several occasions the visitors profited through a mis-timed transfer. Romans played a useful game in the centre with Stephens (clever and tricky as usual), but the captain's goal-kicking was dead off – three goals out of ten attempts !

On the wing, Smith suffered through Romans' bad passes, or he might have scored two or three more tries. Hudson was not a success at the start, but his dashing runs at the finish brought him into favour. It was a treat to see him going for the line for those last two tries, which were thoroughly well earned. L. Vears, at full back, gave a capital display, especially in the kicking department, whilst his defence was sound.

The Edwardians were a hard-working lot, but were clearly outplayed. Ravenhill (the Midland Counties full-back) got through a tremendous amount of work with credit, and one or two of the three-quarters showed good tackling powers.