

From "The Citizen" Saturday 6 December 1930

An old supporter of the City Club writes: "What, in your opinion, would constitute the best Gloucester Fifteen selected from players who have appeared for the Club at Kingsholm since the ground was opened in season 1891-2?"

To answer this question meant a search of the records covering 39 years, and considering the number of fine players who have represented Gloucester during this long period, I did not altogether appreciate the task. However, I have yielded to my correspondent's request, and my selection of the best fifteen is as follows:-

***A. Wood, back.**

***Percy Stout, *Walter Jackson, *C. A. Hooper and *Arthur Hudson, three-quarters.**

***D. R. Gent and Tom Bagwell, half-backs.**

***H. V. Page (captain), G. J. Witcomb, *F. O. Poole, *Frank Stout, *C. Hall, W. Spiers, Albert Collins and *Tom Voyce.**

*** Internationals**

I am quite prepared to find some of the members of the Club not in agreement with my selection – I found the greatest difficulty in deciding between several players for various positions – but I think there will be general agreement among those who have followed the fortunes of the Gloucester team since the tenure of Kingsholm that the chosen Fifteen would take "a lot of beating." Wood I regarded as one of the best full-backs of all time, and after he left the Rugby Union game he had a brilliant career with Oldham and the Northern Union. Jackson – Gloucester's first International, though he was with Halifax when "capped" – was, in my opinion, the ideal centre, and Hooper, besides playing for England, had the distinction of gaining his Blue at Cambridge. Percy Stout and Hudson on the wings. I need not emphasize their all-round ability. Hudson holds the club record for try-getting; and in all matches during his career he scored over 300 tries.

My selection of half-backs – Gent and Bagwell – may not meet with general approval, but I think they would have made a wonderful pair. Bagwell had seen his best days when the Club moved to Kingsholm, but he had a couple of seasons there, and I could not leave him out. He was a remarkably clever player, especially in attack, and one try he scored at the Spa against a powerful London team will never be forgotten by those who witnessed the effort. The choice of forwards gave me most trouble. Several of the players are only names to the resent generation, but they were all famous locally in their day.

What a back row – Spiers, Albert Collins and Voyce! Spiers was one of the unluckiest players to miss his England cap; at least we thought so when he played for Gloucester, and this opinion was emphatically confirmed when he removed to Devon. Collins was one of the cleverest forwards ever turned out by Gloucester, and Tom Voyce would find a place in a world's team.

As a second list I would suggest the following:-

G. Romans, back; W. H. Taylor, Stanley Cook, W. Hall and *C. Smith; S. A. Ball and W. George; *G. Holford (capt.), D. Wyburn, *W. Johns, A. Cromwell, A. Hall, *D. IIWollands [sic], L. E. Saxby, and D. Crichton Miller.

* Played for England