

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1904.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. OLD EDWARDIANS.

CITY TEAM AT BIRMINGHAM.

HEAVY SCORING BY GLOUCESTER.

The City team made the journey to Birmingham to-day for the return match with the Old Edwardians at Selly Park. Gent stood down at half-back, but the selection of a partner for Harrison at centre was left till the last moment. The Old Boys were without Smith and Reynolds, Wallace and Ham taking their places. The following were the teams : –

Gloucester. – G. Romans, back; C. Smith, J. Harrison, W. Hyam, and A. Hudson, three-quarter backs; J. Stephens and A. Hall, half-backs; W. Johns (captain), B. Parham, A. Hawker, F. Pegler, G. Matthews, G. Vears, H. Collins, and H. Quixley, forwards.

Old Edwardians. – T. H. Ravenhill, back; A. L. R. Cross, G. E. G. Assinder, C. Lister, and R. S. Setten, three-quarter backs; H. R. Somerville and W. H. Goodman, half-backs; E. Goodwin, H. A. Crofts, C. Horton, A. C. F. Assinder, C. H. Chinn, R. V. Caddick, Wallace, and Ham, forwards.

THE GAME.

The game commenced late. Gloucester started, and the Old Boys relieved. The visitors obtained possession, but an appeal by the home men for a pass forward was ignored by the referee, and Hall running on got over easily. Romans unaccountably failed to add the major points.

"Whacker" Smith was frequently prominent for Gloucester, playing a fine game on the wing, and only the sound tackling of Ravenhill prevented him from getting over on more than one occasion. The Old Edwardians were penalised, but Romans, although well placed, failed to goal.

At the end of twenty minutes' play Gloucester were a try to the good, but they ought to have been further ahead. The visitors continued to have all the best of the game. Hall got over neatly, and Romans was unsuccessful with the place-kick.

Hyam registered a couple of tries in rapid succession, Ravenhill failing to hold him on one occasion. Romans took both kicks, converting one, and only narrowly missing the other.

Although the high wind which prevailed was all against accurate kicking, the Old Edwardians were hopelessly outpaced, and they never looked like scoring, while the rear men found it impossible to check the visitors' triumphant career. Hudson got over close on half-time, and Romans added the extra points.

From the restart Gloucester only just missed further increasing their lead before the interval, Hall being grassed in time.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 2 goals 3 tries
Old Edwardians Nil

On resuming, Gloucester, if anything, more completely monopolised the play. Ravenhill twice pulled them up, but, not to be denied, they came again, and Parham, slipping round the back very smartly, touched down. The place-kick was by no means easy, and it was not surprising to find Romans unsuccessful.

The Old Boys then did a little better, but it proved to be only a flash-in-the-pan, and Hudson scored another try. This was converted by Romans, but he failed a few minutes later when Hudson again got over. These two tries were scored within about three minutes of each other.

The Old Boys did not give way because of their heavy debit, but they were inferior at all points of the game. At three-quarter time Gloucester were thirty points in front of their opponents.

From this point the visitors, who to a man had worked very hard all through, relaxed their efforts somewhat, and a bit of midfield play relieved the monotony of Romans kicking at goal.

The Old Boys' respite was but a brief one, however, for in the gathering gloom Hudson once more eluded Ravenhill, and Romans had very little difficulty in adding the major points.

The home men made a weak effort, but they were again forced to act on the defensive, and picking up smartly, Smith once more crossed the line. Romans succeeded with the place-kick, and had a very fine record considering the conditions. The light was bad when the whistle finally sounded, and brought the Old Edwardians relief.

RESULT :

Gloucester 5 goals, 5 tries (40 points)
Old Edwardians Nil

REMARKS.

There was no comparison whatever between the teams. Gloucester were infinitely superior at all points, Hudson, Romans, Smith, Parham, and Hall giving a wonderfully fine exhibition.

On the home side, contradictory though the score may make it appear, Ravenhill played a tolerably good game, but it was impossible to hold the speedy and slippery visitors. Lack of pace frequently beat the home men, but it was their deficiency in general ability which brought about their failure more often than mere lack of pace. They were strong in the scrums, but not sufficiently alert, and their defence, with the exception of that shown by Ravenhill, was loose. Romans missed as many place kicks as he converted, but the wind was all against accuracy, and he did well under the circumstances.

GLOUCESTER A v. GORDON LEAGUE.

SECONDS SCORE AN EASY WIN.

Played at Kingsholm, a late start being made owing to the absence of the League team. When the players lined out the League only had a dozen players, but the vacancies were subsequently filled up.

The Seconds started, and early on L. Vears (who took Curtis' place on the right wing) scored after neat passing. The same player converted. Following the re-start the League showed up with some good work, but a passing bout right along the Seconds' third line took play past mid-field. The League, aided by a penalty kick, changed the venue, but Gloucester set up an attack with some smart exchanges, Hook, however, held on too long before yielding to Vears. Even play followed, but Gloucester at length got well down, and following a rush by Robinson, the ball came out to Hughes, who raced over in the corner. Vears failed at goal.

Resuming, Vears was prominent with some good work, and the League lines narrowly escaped. After some loose play the ball was picked up and sent to Cook, who transferred at the right moment to Hughes. The wing man had some 30 yards to go, but he easily beat his opponents and scored a smart try wide out. The place kick failed.

On the resumption, the League, aided by mistakes by the home players, gained a footing in the Seconds' half, where Goulter had a couple of shots for goal from penalties, but both were unsuccessful.

Gloucester attacked sharply again after this, and from near mid-field Robinson secured a clear opening and ran behind the posts. Vears unaccountably missed a goal from the easy place. Nothing further was done before the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A	1 goal, 3 tries
League	Nil

The League resumed, and play, which was of a scrambling nature, opened in Gloucester's quarters. Eventually the Seconds relieved, and Hook made a nice run and pass to Vears, but the latter was tackled, and with no one up in support, a possible opening was lost. A couple of minutes later, however, Robinson accepted a sharp pass from Smith, and sending on to Vears the wing man notched a clever try. No goal resulted.

The League played up pluckily on the drop out, and by loose forward play got dangerously close. A penalty to Gloucester brought relief, but the League worked back, and but for faulty handling might have scored.

A long kick, which Goulter failed to field, enabled the home team to reach the centre, where operations were contested for some time. The play, however, was very scrambling, and mistakes were numerous. Gloucester, after several fruitless attempts to open out the game, secured a splendid chance through the agency of F. Hughes, and Hook ran over easily. Vears added the extra points. This was all the scoring.

RESULT :

Gloucester A 2 goals 4 tries (22 points)
Gordon League Nil

REMARKS.

The Seconds were clearly the better team, especially in the back division, where Hughes, Hook, and Vears did excellent work. The League forwards made a good show in the second half, but they lacked scoring ability, and one or two chances were missed.

Watts played a sound game at full back for the winners, but Goulter appeared to be suffering from an attack of "nerves," and was often at fault in fielding.