

Martin strides from Perse to Twickenham

After seeing his weakened side narrowly beaten by the Harlequins on Saturday the Cambridge University captain, M. H. Gibson, did not after all spring any surprises in naming his XV to meet Oxford at Twickenham a week tomorrow.

The team is that which lost 9-11 to M. R. Steele-Bodger's XV last week—

D. Gethin (Selwyn); R. L. K. Miliffe (Jesus), J. D. Gibbs (Trinity Hall), C. P. Carter (Christ's), P. A. Kitchin (Queens); M. H. Gibson (Queens), A. J. Hamp-Ferguson (Fitzwilliam House); G. K. M. Webb (Jesus), I. Rees (Christ's), R. D. H. Payne (Emmanuel), N. O. Martin (St. John's), B. J. Morrison (Pembroke), M. Green (Christ's).

T. R. Drake (Catus), M. G. Doyle (Christ's).

There are three freshmen, though two of them, Doyle and Carter, have come up to Cambridge from other universities. The third, Martin, is straight from the Perse School, Cambridge, where he gained schoolboy international honours.

Martin is the first Old Persean to be picked for Cambridge against Oxford since the wartime games of 1941 and 1942 when G. C. Thruswell played in the home-and-away matches. Only one other Old Persean played this century—A. H. Cohen in 1922.

Absent Blues

Four Blues are in the side—Gibson, Hamp-Ferguson, Rees and Webb, while four still in residence are not selected—Miliffe, who has been injured, Slater, Fleming and Coley.

Slater and Fleming will be on the wings when the LX Club meet Oxford University Greyhounds at Iffley Road, Oxford, on Thursday.

The full-team will be:—P. Jones (Fitzwilliam House); K. J. P. Slater (Fitzwilliam House), R. M. Lamb (Downing), J. Berman (Fitzwilliam House), R. S. Fleming (Emmanuel); L. Harding (Pembroke) capt., N. Cosh (Queens); T. M. Corry (St. Catharine's), J. Quayle (Fitzwilliam House), A. R. Cole (Emmanuel), J. R. Marriott (Selwyn), R. E. Barker (St. John's), A. M. Waldram (Pembroke), M. Forbes (Clare), R. G. Sim (Pembroke).

Mike Gibson's announcement yesterday that his team for the Varsity Match would be the same as that which played against Steele-Bodger's XV last week has laid him open to criticism for fielding such a weak side on Saturday against Harlequins, who won by 14pts to nine.

Unrepentant

If, as seems likely, he had already settled on his side, he denied them valuable match practice and the opportunity of matching their skills against the "Twickenham swirl" which can disconcert even the most experienced players.

Gibson was unrepentant after the Varsity had proved vulnerable at scrum-half, where the former Dulwich schoolboy Nick Cosh, replaced Jeremy Hamp-Ferguson, and in the second row where the English international, Colin Payne, had matters all his own way for Quins. "It is essential to guard against injury to key players," said Gibson, "and existing slight injuries to obvious first choices added to my problem. The players I rested have had Twickenham experience already."

Gibson can have learned nothing

from this encounter, and must have been worried both by the ease with which Quins gained possession from the tight and the defensive gaps which brought four tries. The wingers, Robin Jolliffe and Tony Kitchin, kicked adroitly on occasions, but there was a lack of purpose in their positioning when Quins were attacking.

The full-back, Denis Gethin, who recovered quickly from a blow to the ribs, underlined the dangers of a stiff breeze at Headquarters by kicking only one of many attempts at goal.

'Wembley' try

Peter Price's first minute try for the Light Blues seemed more suitable for Wembley than Twickenham. Kitchin dribbled skilfully down the left and Price "trapped" his centre "before picking up and crossing."

Lloyd and Cox scored tries for Quins before the break, one of which Scott converted, but on the resumption the Varsity forwards handled excitingly to produce a try for Cosh.

Young and Cox added further tries for Quins before Gethin made the score more respectable with a penalty goal from the '25'.



United's centre-half, Gerry Baker (No. 5), was up with his forwards again on Saturday, but his header sailed over the cross-bar.

Old Cantabs made one fatal error

Shelford beat the Old Cantabs by three points to nil in the local Rugby Union Derby on Saturday but they must have been relieved to hear the final whistle in this hard-fought game.

A strong icy wind, and the ground made heavy and slippery by the morning rains, ruined any possibility of an open game, and it was quickly obvious that both teams had decided to play it out. Kicking ahead with fast following forwards was the order of the day, and in this type of game, the teams were very well matched.

The Old Cantabs seemed to have the edge in the tight scrums, and more than held their own in the loose, of which too many were allowed to go on too long.

Wide gap

After five minutes play, Shelford contrived to secure the ball, although the Cantabs had heeled it, and it quickly reached Robin Amato on the Shelford left wing. He edged ground and when held, edged inside to Brian Abblitt, who had only to stroll over through a gap as wide as Hills Road. This was a bad defensive error by the Old Cantabs, and it cost them the game.

Throughout the second half, Shelford were pinned in their own half, and were lucky that the Cantabs were unable to find an opening.

Cambridge found no room to improvise

Cambridge fought with pace, skill and resolution against a rugged Southend XV at Prior Park on Saturday, but their hosts tackled well, got plenty of possession, and finally closed up the game to deserve a win by 11 points to five, writes Deryck Harvey.

Southend, a team notoriously hard to beat on their own steeply-sloping pitch, have lost only one game this season, and they showed why with a brand of powerfully effective opportunist football designed to leave their opponents gasping.

Around the scrum they were superb. Time and again Tim Keane, City's scrum half, was caught in possession by his opposite number, David Harrison. And every time Cambridge got away with the ball they could be sure a tackle was coming in fairly and squarely leaving them no room to improvise.

Luck

Even so, Southend had the luck. The most surprising thing about their win was that it came against a Cambridge side who played consistently to an attacking style. Of the two teams, it was usually City who tried to ply their backs with the orthodox movement—but with only limited success in a high-force wind.

Kicking uphill, Cambridge took the lead after only three minutes, the ball coming cleanly from a line-out in the corner and Goodman making ground for John Phillips to go over for a try. Stephen Petzing converted and City were five points up in their first attack.

Unfortunately for Cambridge a try was to come, at least in part, only one minute later, when Barry Selmes, Southend's livewire No. 8, landed a penalty in fine style from all of 40 yards. That made it five-three after four minutes play. Keane, nowadays looking for the unexpected break through a crowded defence, came close with a quick burst from a maul only to

be smashed five yards from a try. Selmes should have received the same treatment after 30 minutes, but Petzing missed a tackle and Southend added a try to their goal to move into a lead they were never to relinquish.

Still, Cambridge, powered by a sound performance by Martin Bell in their second row, looked good for the second-half fray, and it was a surprise when Briggs added a second try for Southend shortly after half-time. Selmes goaled to complete the scoring.

Fine positioning, handling and kicking for touch by Petzing held the City defence together for the rest of the game. He had plenty to do, for Southend were now rampant for victory; and Cambridge were never a serious attacking force in the last half hour.

Cambridge: S. Petzing; G. Smart, P. Goodman, J. Phillips, J. Fawcett; A. Butlin, T. Keane; J. Thompson, F. P. B. Wooding, R. Steven, N. Ferguson, M. Bell, A. G. Watts, S. F. B. Lowe, A. Green,

Tenacious school defence

The Old Perseans made up for an indecisive first half at the Perse School on Saturday by wearing down the school's first team and eventually achieving a hard-earned victory by 14 pts. to three.

The fact that no points were scored for more than 40 minutes was, however, due as much to the tenacious defence of the school, as to some negative play by the opposition.

Only when it came to kicking were the school at fault. One can hardly remember one occasion in the first half when the ball was driven fully and cleanly out of touch.

The second half opened like a pop from a champagne cork. Their struggle had apparently sapped some of Perse's energy and they had to concede a number of strong-running tries, particularly to Green, whose long legs helped him to three.

Uninspired kicking kept the score down and left the school with enough incentive to fight without taking all the wind from their sails. Even at 0-11 down the school's defence maintained its tight covering and the forwards their enthusiasm.

In the closing minutes they forced a try near the left corner, when Andrew Chitty scored. It was a fully merited consolation.

The progress of Sawston C.C.

Mr. Frank Ridgeon, in proposing a toast to Sawston Cricket Club at Saturday night's annual dinner at Sawston Village College, said that the club had made more progress than any other club in Cambridgeshire and was well up to giving any other club a good game.

"With the right coach and your facilities it will not be long before you become one of the primary clubs in the county," Mr. Ridgeon told the 70 guests. He added that it was pleasing to see the club play the game in a positive spirit with determination to win, rather than with indifference, as was more common

nowadays. Mr. Robert Roberts, the general manager of Messrs. Spicers Ltd., the landlords of the ground used by the club said: "My company has always been one with local development and we take great pride in this club. We have certainly got no plans of taking the ground away from you and selling it."

The club accepted an offer by Messrs. W. D. and H. O. Willis of a "Castella Award" to be presented to a member of the club for services and loyalty over the years and who had received little recognition. The award, which consisted of a silver ashtray, 50 Castella pana-

tellas and a Castella tie, was presented to Mr. S. A. Searle of 4 Brookfield Road, Sawston, by Mr. G. A. Thompson, a Willis representative.

Mr. Searle has been connected with the club for over 20 years and was a past captain of the second team.

The other awards, which were presented by Mr. Anton Spicer, the president of the club, consisted of a bat for the cricketer of the year, Mr. M. Burdekin, the captain; a miniature M.C.C. signed bat and a ball for Mr. R. Johnson, who was scorer; and a cheque to Mr. F. Matthews, the groundsman.

Bailham has a field day

It was all too easy for Cambridge City at Poole on Saturday, when they won the two Southern League points in the first half, in which their Irish centre-forward, Eddie Bailham, snatched four goals, reports Peter Fearn.

This was a goal bonanza that we have not seen in the City's camp for many a long Premier Division day and the only disappointment was that the forwards did not add to the score after the interval. But, without being too critical, it was obvious that City had done enough against a poor side that will almost certainly go back to the First Division at the end of this season.

No heart

The visitors were able to do almost as they liked against a defence that had no heart and no pattern; and the home attack was never in with a chance against a solid looking Cambridge defence.

It came as no surprise, therefore, when City consolidated the goal lead that Bailham gave them in the third minute. Brian Hart, making a re-appearance in the senior side as Alan Gregory was transferred to Guildford on Friday, made a good showing during the game, bringing about a form of quick distribution that had been missing in recent weeks. He gave Bailham his chance to net the first goal when he pushed the ball through the middle and the centre-forward guided it past the 'keeper and centre-half, who collided.

As Poole's team floundered with awkward moves City were able to dominate the play to such an extent that it became dull except when livened with goals. Bailham scored his second in the 19th minute, this time left-winger Billy Wall laying on the chance.

Four minutes later the centre-forward completed his hat-trick, so disorganised was the home defence that they only stood and watched as his first shot was parried to Spears, hit back into the middle to where Bailham was still standing unmarked and he had an easy task to steer the ball into the net.

Play continued to unfold in the same manner until three minutes before half-time when Poole were sunk as Bailham netted his fourth goal following a pass from Spears.

More ironing?

Last week the former Torquay manager, Eric Webber, now boss at Poole, held a round table conference to iron out players' problems on the field. It would be interesting to sit in at the next such meeting. For, although Poole kept City at bay in the second period one wondered whether it were their play or City's satisfaction with the position that kept more goals out of the net.

There were just two chances when the Dorset club might have scored. Once Brian Caine was beaten and Tommy Carroll had to clear off the line; and centre-forward France missed from four yards just before the end.

Cambridge City: Caine; Carroll; Dennis; Moyses, McGugan, McNally; Spears, Ward, Bailham, Hart, Wall.

Southern League

	PREMIER DIVISION			
	P	W	D	L
Wellington	17	7	7	3
Wimbledon	17	8	5	4
Weymouth	15	7	6	2
Worcester	15	9	1	5
Hereford	15	6	7	3
Reading	15	8	2	5
Bedford Town	14	8	2	4
Corby Town	16	7	4	5
Yeovil Town	15	6	5	4
Chelmsford City	15	6	4	5
Cambridge Utd.	16	6	3	7
Margate	17	5	5	7
Tonbridge	14	6	2	6
Folkestone	12	4	5	3
Cambridge City	13	5	3	5
Cheltenham	15	4	5	6
King's Lynn	15	5	2	8
Barnford	15	4	3	8
Nuneaton	15	5	1	9
Rugby	15	3	4	8
Guildford City	12	2	4	6
Poole Town	15	3	2	10

Saturday summary

SOUTHERN LEAGUE		METROPOLITAN LEAGUE		EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE CUP	
Cambridge United 2, Kings Lynn United 0. Attendance 1,571.	Poole Town 0, Cambridge City 4. Attendance 758.	Bedford Town 3, Rugby Town 1.	St. Neots Town 3, Stevenage Town 0.	Clacton Town 2, Histon 0.	Ely City 2, Newmarket Town 1.
PETERBOROUGH LEAGUE CUP		SUFFOLK MINOR CUP		HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE	
Ramsey 4, Huntingdon United 1.	Haddenham Rovers 2, Parson Drove 4.	Eynesbury Rovers 2, Pottun 1.	Haverhill Rovers Reserves 0, Witham 2.	Saffron Walden Town 2, London Colney 4.	Harlequins 14pts, Cambridge University 9.
HOCKEY		WOMEN'S MATCHES		TABLE TENNIS	
Middlesex Hospital 2, Selwyn College 0.	London University 2, Cambridge University 3.	Huntingdonshire 2, Cambridge-shire 1.	Huntingdonshire II 1, Cambridge-shire II 0.	Saffron Walden 6, Cambridge City 0.	South-East Midlands League Men's Section:—Wellingborough 0, Cambridge City 10.
		JUNIOR SECTION:—Wellingborough 0, Cambridge City 10.			