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The Week's Sport.

Gloucester v. Swansea is a fixture that is too frequently attended with ill-fortune. It seems as though fate had willed it that the teams should not meet under really favourable circumstances. Last season Gloucester were only able to take a very indifferent XV. to Swansea, and the Welshmen were in no better position when it became their turn to pay a visit to the old city, the match having been postponed from the date originally fixed for it, owing to the frozen condition of the ground.

Thus a reliable trial of strength cannot be said to have taken place between the teams last winter, and no better fortune favoured the meeting on Saturday last, which resulted in nothing more than an exhibition game.

First of all the possibility of Saturday's match being played was seriously threatened by the severe frost of the early portion of the week, but on Friday all fears on this score were dispelled by a timely thaw, only to be renewed on the morning of the match, when the city awoke to a white world.

The snow was lying on the ground to a considerable depth at the time the match should have been commenced, and when the Swanseaites appeared on the field a consultation took place as to the desirability or otherwise of abandoning the match.

As already stated, an exhibition game was decided upon, which only lasted twenty minutes each way, so that, had either side effected a score, which they were unable to do, the game could not have had a very satisfactory termination.

During the first half of the game the homesters had the best of the argument, a large proportion of the twenty minutes being occupied by attacks on the Welsh goal, but after the interval, though Gloucester continued to play an aggressive game for a short time, there was very little to choose between the teams, the "All-whites" perhaps doing rather more pressing than their opponents.

Gloucester were very near scoring on several occasions, and once, in the first portion, A. Collins succeeded in putting the leather over the goal line behind the uprights, but was called back for a previous infringement, whilst within a minute of "no-side" Bevan, one of the visiting forwards, getting possession made a dash for the home line, and was only stopped in the nick of time by three or four of the Gloucester team.

The backs had very little to do, running and passing, particularly the latter, being completely out of the question, as the ball was generally covered with a thick coating of half-melted snow, which rendered it exceedingly heavy and difficult to handle. The play was consequently chiefly amongst the forwards, but was, nevertheless, fairly fast and loose, dribbling being a prominent feature.

On the home side Healing was as usual brilliant in this department, and A. Collins, Whitcomb, and Cromwell were also conspicuous; in fact the whole of the forwards played a sound game, and it is difficult to pick any for special mention. The Swansea pack were not far, if any, behind their opponents, and used their feet dexterously.

For once the renowned James's were outplayed at half-back, for it was only very rarely that either of them, after picking up the ball, could get rid of it before one of the Gloucester pair had skirted the scrum, and effectually "nailed" him. There was nothing to choose between Ball and George in this respect, for they both collared splendidly and were smart and quick in their movements. The three-quarters can be dismissed with a very brief remark, for it was not a day for them, and they were mainly occupied in falling on the ball, and occasionally getting in a kick.

The full backs were about as good as one another, and when one made a big kick, the other invariably returned it with another equally effective. They both played exceedingly well, and made no mistakes. Free kicks were very numerous, and made the game more uninteresting than it would otherwise have been.

The crowd which assembled was an unusually large one, despite the miserable conditions.

The following were the teams : –

Gloucester : A. F. Hughes, back; T. Bagwell, C. E. Brown (captain), R. Grist, and E. J. Ward, three-quarter backs; S. A. Ball and W. George, half-backs; A. Cromwell, A. E. Healing, T. Collins, A. Collins, R. Jenkins, G. J. Whitcomb, C. Williams, and H. V. Page, forwards.

Swansea : W. Bancroft, back; D. Gwynne, F. Pearce, A. Whapham, and E. Reid, three-quarter backs; D. James and E. James, half-backs; W. Bowen (captain), E. Charles, J. Meredith, B. Davies, H. Bevan, H. A. Bowen, D. Samuel, and J. Samuel, forwards.