

## GLOUCESTER JOURNAL

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### *The Week's Sport.*

The XV. which went to Cardiff last Saturday was considered a very strong one, containing as it did a lot of forwards without a weak man, and the usual backs with one exception, and that a most important one.

The latest addition to the ranks has been made the subject of considerable favourable comment, it being generally anticipated that E. J. Ward would fill a gap in the team, which has been very apparent this season, and his *début* has been looked forward to with much interest. He has been twice previously picked, but was unable on those occasions to turn out.

The wisdom of his choice on Saturday was made apparent by his play, for though he had no chance given him of showing his powers of attack, yet he demonstrated very clearly that he is thoroughly at home when his goal is in jeopardy and defensive tactics are required. His defensive play on Saturday was much admired, his kicking and tackling being first rate, whilst, on one occasion when he made an opening for himself, he showed that given half a chance he will be a difficult man to stop.

The game was looked forward to with some degree of confidence by the supporters of the Gloucester team, and when the result became known in the city it caused considerable disappointment. In view of the form lately displayed by the Welshmen, and the heavy defeat they sustained at the hands of Burton the previous Saturday, it was thought with the team that represented Gloucester the Cardiffians would not stand a too brilliant chance of success. However, the unexpected often occurs, and such was the case on Saturday.

At the outset Gloucester caused the home team to defend their line, and within a few minutes of the kick-off Walter George, picking up near the 25 line, eluded the embraces of all would-be tacklers, and placed the ball over the goal line near the goal. Hughes, unfortunately for Gloucester, failed to cover the cross-bar, and after George and Ball had each got close up to the line, but just missed scoring each time, Cardiff raised the siege, and the scene of action being transferred to the other end, Arthur ran into the visitors' 25, and, handing the leather to Pearson, enabled the latter to score near the touch line. The kick was too much for D. W. Evans, and, the play having been chiefly in favour of Gloucester up till half-time, the score at this point stood one try each.

At the commencement of the second portion, the "city men" again held the upper hand, but a stubborn resistance was experienced, and when, after some quarter of an hour's invasion of the home goal, the visitors were repulsed and driven into their own quarters, no further score had been effected, though Bagwell and Healing were each stopped close to the line.

Now came Cardiff's turn to adopt an aggressive policy, and they soon became busy round the Gloucester stronghold, and despite the fact that Ward once ran out to the centre, and that Healing, Cromwell and Collins relieved their side several times by means of their fine foot work, the Welshmen always returned to the attack, and at length settled down to a continuous onslaught on the Gloucester goal.

It appeared, however, as though the defence of the visitors would be too good for them to break through, but ultimately a deplorable circumstance gave the victory to Cardiff. D. W. Evans broke away from a line-out, but Gloucester appealed for not straight, and the referee placed the whistle to his mouth. Seeing this Hughes allowed Evans to pass him unopposed, but the referee did not actually sound the whistle, and before Hughes realised this, a try had been registered; and though the goal was not kicked, yet the try was sufficient to decide the issue in favour of Cardiff.

The result was thus most unsatisfactory in face of the keen rivalry existing between the teams, and the fact that neither side could have been said to have asserted any superiority over the other.

Commenting on the match, the *South Wales Daily News* says : —

'Hughes, the Gloucester full back, was a tower of strength to his side, and repeatedly saved them. The halves, particularly George, ought to be severely cautioned about their off-side tactics. Brown, the crack three-quarter, failed to come off, and the others acquitted themselves only tolerably, being better at tackling than on the offensive.

But for the fact that the Gloucester halves were permitted, why it is hard to say, to infringe the off-side rule in the most flagrant fashion, I incline to the opinion that Cardiff's victory would have been much more decisive, for at half and three-quarters, as in the case of the forwards, they were undoubtedly superior to their opponents, so long as the latter cared to play the game.'

The *Western Mail* says : —

'The Gloucester backs played a good game, especially Hughes, who was safe in the extreme. The half-backs were distinguished principally for their off-side play, which was one of the features of the match. The forwards worked hard, but played rather wildly at times.'

The following were the teams : —

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

Cardiff : G. Lewis, back; C. S. Arthur (captain), N. Jones, T. W. Pearson, and W. Cosslett, three-quarter backs; R. Evans and H. M. Ingledew, half-backs; S. H. Nicholls, W. E. O. Williams, D. W. Evans, J. Mahoney, T. W. Morgan, G. Allen, R. Thomas, and C. B. Allen, forwards.

Referee : Mr. L. C. Thomas, Merthyr.

- As is usual when the first teams meet at Cardiff, the second XV.'s measured their strength at Gloucester, and a good number of people assembled at the Spa to watch the encounter, the main features of which were the brilliant passing of the home backs, and their inability to successfully negotiate tries, time after time some slight mistake spoiling their effort when a score seemed well within their grasp.

They had all the best of the play, as the number of times they compelled the visitors to save by touching down indicates. The only point at which the home men did not outshine their opponents was at full back, and here Smith would not compare favourable with Rooney, who played a splendid game.

Watts was very quick at half, tackled well, and passed beautifully, and Phelps also did well; Jackson was very sure in getting in his kick; and Dere, Stoddart, and George all played a good game, but were each a little faulty at times. The forwards were fairly well matched, but, if anything, the home pack held a slight advantage.

The following were the teams : –

Gloucester II : – E. Smith, back; R. W. Stoddart, G. F. Dere, H. George, and W. Jackson, three-quarter backs; T. Phelps and J. Watts, half-backs; T. B. Powell (captain), A. Collins, S. E. Clutterbuck, G. Morgan, S. Dangerfield, A. H. Gorin, E. D. Tandy, and C. Williams, forwards.

Cardiff II : –E. Rooney, back; J. Kingscote, G. P. Biggs, A. F. Hill, and G. H. Baker, three-quarter backs; S. Biggs and J. Merrett, half-backs; W. D. Evans, J. Yorath, J. Proud, H. Millward, A. Morris, C. E. Allen, J. Allen, and E. Owen, forwards.

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