

GLOUCESTER JOURNAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1889.

The Week's Sport.

The rain which fell during the early hours of Saturday morning last went a long way towards securing the disappointment of those who were looking forward to Saturday's match at the Spa as a favourable opportunity for trying the capabilities of the new three-quarter back Ward, and who were also anticipating an open and fast game, with plenty of opportunity for Grist to exhibit some of that dodging which so delighted the habitués of the Spa last season.

In commenting on the Llanelly match we had occasion to deplore the absence of two wing three-quarters who could be relied upon to make the most of the opportunities offered to them, but to-day we have to congratulate the club on having so successfully filled both places.

It was generally considered that the team got together to oppose Cardiff the previous week represented the full strength of the club, but there were two important alterations on Saturday, R. Grist taking his old place, vice F. H. Healing, and H. G. Brown giving way to H. V. Page.

With such a combination opposed to them, it was not expected that Bath would make much of a stand, but when, following the kick-off, the visitors exhibited some very smart passing, and, Walker and Parham running in dashing style, the Gloucester half of the ground held the contestants, the spectators did not scruple to applaud vigorously.

The home team did not allow the game to remain long in this position, however, and, notwithstanding that they met with a determined opposition, eventually found themselves in rather close proximity to the Bath goal line, which Brown succeeded in crossing, after several neat passes had been exchanged.

The invasion was well kept up, Gloucester attacking in real earnest, and as a result Grist, and then Bagwell got safely behind the line, only to be re-called for previous infringements. Ward then got in, and Hughes added a goal with a sterling kick from a penalty, and Whitcomb also scoring, the record at half-time was a goal, three tries and five minor points to nothing.

In the second half Bath showed a decided improvement, and, in turn, penned the home men in their own 25 for a considerable period, during which the home citadel was attacked with a will, and, though Gloucester put forth strenuous efforts, it was not until Bath had several times returned to the siege, that they could effectually clear their lines.

At last the centre was reached, and then, as "time" was drawing near and darkness was coming on, the home team exerted themselves for a final effort, with the evident intention of adding to their score. Ward ran finely, and then a brilliant round of passing gave Grist the ball, and he dodged past several opponents and grounded his charge safely over the line, Hughes this time sending the leather beautifully over the bar. The final score was, therefore, Gloucester two goals, three tries and six minors to nothing.

Despite the unfavourable condition of the turf and the ball Ward made a very successful debüt on home soil, and the opinion was generally expressed that on a dry ground he will require a lot of stopping. Indeed, the same remark applies to Saturday, when, with the ground in a very wet and slippery state, he appeared to puzzle the visiting backs, who had the greatest difficulty in holding him, whilst, when safely held, it took several to stay his progress.

Grist did not have the same chances of distinguishing himself that were afforded Ward, but gave conclusive proof that he has lost none of his trickiness or pace, and, owing to an improved arrangement for the protection of his weak shoulder, he can enter into the game more fearlessly and with less risk than was possible before.

We were very pleased to see that Bagwell fully recognised the presence of the wing man, and passed unselfishly, and Brown showed an improvement in his passing, though on more than one occasion he threw the ball forward. In this respect George was also somewhat at fault, but the whole of the blame should not be attached to the one who makes the pass, for sometimes, owing to the intended recipient getting too far forward, the pass is bound to be withheld altogether or the ball thrown forward. In some instances in the game under notice the latter was the cause of forward passes, and sometimes it was a palpable mistake on the part of the passer.

Hughes once more proved himself a veritable tower of strength, his kicking, considering the state of the ball, being really grand. He replied to the kick-off by sending the leather into touch at the opposite 25 flag, and to a drop out after a minor, by driving it over the goal line.

Hall and George were successful, though they were much hampered by the splendid play of Parham, on the opposite side of the scrum.

The forwards were not as formidable as might have been expected, but Page, Healing, Whitcomb, and the brothers Williams were conspicuous, the two first being the pick.

Of the visitors the most prominent were T. Parham, Walker, and the brothers Soane. Parham played finely, getting round the scrummage in the most dexterous manner, while his collaring and running were remarkably good.

The following were the teams : —

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

Bath : Pinchback, back; Walker, Battie, Helps, and Horsford, three-quarter backs; McKay and T. Parham, half-backs; F. Soane, V. Soane, Vincent, Alexander, Lloyd, Wilson, Ford, and Doveton, forwards.

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