

GLOUCESTER JOURNAL

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The Week's Sport.

Gloucester took a weak team to Bath on Saturday last, but one which was sufficiently strong to thrash Bath to the tune of four goals and four tries to one try.

The greatest weakness was in the forwards, Cromwell and the two Collins's being absent, whilst Hughes, being too unwell to play, Smith, the second XV. back, was requisitioned to fill his place.

A start having been made, Gloucester forced the play, and Brown scored in the first five minutes. After this Bath woke up, and for some time play was confined to neutral territory until Witcomb, getting the ball near the centre, galloped half the length of the ground, and scored the second try. Then a rush by the Bath forwards resulted in Alexander scoring for the home team, the point not being improved upon.

Gloucester then got another look in, and some pretty passing between George and Bagwell resulted in the latter scoring the third try, which Page converted. Ellis scored the next try, which was also converted.

Just after half time Bath played up, but Gloucester soon drove them back, and for the rest of the time play was entirely confined to the home territory, Powell, Healing and Bagwell scoring tries, one of which Page converted, and Jackson kicking a goal from a "free," awarded because one of the home halves "fished" the ball out of the "scrum."

Gloucester did not play up to their usual form, which may be accounted for by the fact that the front combination was broken up by the absence of those forwards we have already alluded to, and that they had a pretty "soft" thing on.

Ellis, Healing, Page, and Witcomb were the pick of the forwards. Ball and George at half were more than a match for Mackay and Miller, their opponents. George was, perhaps the better of the two, and he and Bagwell played together well.

The captain was "all there," and received able support from his colleagues Bagwell, Jackson, and Powell. Both Bagwell and Jackson had plenty of work to do, but Powell only had the ball about three times. However, when he did get it he knew what to do and on the first occasion scored, whilst the second time he was only stopped a few yards from the line.

For the Bath team Fanshawe, Horsford, and Battye played a good game outside the "scrum," and F. and V. Soane, Goodwyn, and Alexander played well in the pack.

Unfortunately for Bath Goodwyn twisted his knee soon after half time and was obliged to leave the field.

Apropos of Saturday's match the *Bath Herald* of Friday contained the following :

"Bath play Gloucester at Kingston to-morrow and I shall be interested to know what they will do on their own ground. Nobody can deny that the Gloucester men have a very great advantage when playing at the Spa at Gloucester, in fact, many of their wins are attributable to the ground, so that to-morrow's match will be decidedly worth seeing."

It must have been – for the unfortunate scribe attached to the *Bath Herald*. If the 1st team can walk into the affections of Bath like this on their own ground, we would respectfully suggest that they should be consigned to the second XV. next season, who would doubtless play them a good game, if they did not prove too strong for the old opponents of the 1st.

The teams were as follows :—

Gloucester. — E. Smith, Back; T. Bagwell, C. E. Brown (captain), W. Jackson, and T. B. Powell, three-quarter backs; S. A. Ball and W. George, half-backs; R. Jenkins, E. Ellis, C. Williams, H. V. Page, A. E. Healing, G. J. Witcomb, G. Jones, and A. G. Morgan, forwards.

Bath. — Horsford, back; Fanshawe, Helps, Battye, and Pattison, three-quarter backs; Mackay and Miller, half-backs; F. Soane, V. Soane, Alexander, Wilson, Lloyd, Vincent, Strachan, and Goodwyn, forwards.

- Those who visited the Spa on Saturday afternoon were not treated to one of the finest exhibitions of football, the play being of a somewhat tame description on both sides. The Gordon League supporters were looking for great things from the youths, but the exhibition they gave was by no means scientific. The League forwards were fast, and followed up and collared well, but their backs were sadly wanting in every department.

The II. did not show anything like the form which is generally expected from them. The forwards played a scrambling game, with very little combination or science in it, and the backs were not brilliant in any respect, their passing being very indifferent, their kicking poor, and their running not up to the standard.

James's pace, as well as that of Hubert George, was serviceable on occasions, and enabled the former to score two tries, and the latter one, though George injured his ankle in securing his point and had to be carried off the field. The injury was, however, we are pleased to be able to state, not of a very serious nature, and only amounted to a slight wrench.

The other tries were obtained by Phelps (2) and Dere (one), and Watts converting half the tries, the score read at the call of "no-side," Gloucester II., three goals, three tries; Gordon League, one minor.

The latter will have to improve on Saturday's form before they can hope to compete successfully with the II. XV. of the city club.

The following were the teams : –

Gloucester II. – F. Carter, back; H. George, C. James, A. Stephens, and G. F. Dere, three-quarter backs; T. Phelps and J. Watts, half-backs; A. H. Gorin (captain), E. Dangerfield, A. Collins, W. C. Giles, W. Brazell, E. Kilminster, C. Williams, and Gillman, forwards.

Gordon League. – E. Lewis, back; H. Hopewell, H. Haines, A. Creed, and R. York, three-quarter backs; F. W. Bolton and J. Savery, half-backs; T. Barnes, E. Barnes, G. Howell, E. Browning, E. Shearman, G. Lea, G. Jones, and S. Davis, forwards.