

# GLOUCESTER JOURNAL

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1890.

## THE WEEK'S SPORT.

The Gloucester first XV made their way on to the Cotswolds on Saturday last, their fixture card showing the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester as their opponents for that day. The meeting did not evoke so much interest as was wont to be evinced in the matches between the two teams in years gone by, the result being pretty much a foregone conclusion, and the only question upon which any difference of opinion existed in Gloucester was as to the extent of the victory which it seemed certain the visitors would achieve.

The latter took a good team, including Cromwell, who played for the first time since his severe illness, the only absentees of account being H. V. Page, A. E. Healing, and G. J. Whitcomb from the forwards. Kent again accompanied the team, and took the place of Powell at three-quarter back, the captain, C. E. Brown, being also in his place on the other wing. Thus the team, though it would have been materially strengthened by the inclusion of Page, Healing, and Whitcomb, could hardly be said to be non-representative, and was strong enough for the occasion.

However, the Collegians did not allow the visitors a walk over, and the game was a pleasant and interesting one, open and scientific play being favoured by the capital condition of the turf. The visitors were superior at every point though they had not matters all their way, for which the plucky play of their opponents was responsible.

On the game being started, the visitors at once commenced an attack on the home goal, and though the homesters relieved slightly, Cromwell crossed the goal-line and was on the point of scoring, when he lost possession of his charge, and had the mortification of seeing an opponent touch it down.

Kent was conspicuous as the executor of several short dashes, but he did not succeed in increasing the score, though he co-operated with Bagwell and Jackson in a bout of passing, which was somewhat erratic and consequently unproductive.

Dykes, Gresson, and J, Parlane tried hard to get the ball away, but the pressure was maintained despite their efforts, and Collins giving George a pass, the latter fed his captain, and enabled him to register try number one, though he had to maul with Poyser before grounding the ball. Hughes proved equal to the occasion, and steered the leather over the bar.

Brown received possession again on re-starting, this time from Jackson, and was very near to repeating his former operation, his progress only being checked on the goal line, and though foiled at this attempt, the visitors would not relinquish their efforts, and Kent, making a capital run, gave Jackson the ball and an opening, both of which the latter was not slow to take, the try being a clever one. Hughes's kick at goal was not as successful.

After the "breather," Jackson, Bagwell, and Brown put in some judicious passing and running, and Kent, picking up shortly afterwards, transferred to Bagwell, who got past his opponents and scored, Jackson who was entrusted with the place kick, being unable to improve the point.

Gloucester were now forced back into their own 25 by reason of a spasmodic burst on the part of the home team, but they soon recovered themselves, and effectually raised the siege, the forward movement continuing until Bagwell, who took a wide pass from Jackson, placed the ball over the Cirencester goal-line, in a difficult position, however, from which Hughes failed to convert it. Brown added another try, which was not improved upon, and the remainder of the play was in favour of the home men, who forced a couple of minors, but could not effect a more substantial score, and left the field with a balance against them of a goal, four tries, and a minor.

Behind the scrummage Gloucester had a big pull over their opponents, who, however, played a smart game. Kent again favourably impressed the spectators though he did not score, his running being strong, passing accurate, and his defensive play (what little he had to do) sound; Brown was in good form, and got through a great amount of work very well, his two tries being by no means the only good things he did; and Bagwell and Jackson in the centre passed and ran exceedingly well, and generally played a pretty, taking game. Ball and George were all there on the skirts of the "scrum," and Hughes was very good at full back.

Sykes, Poyser, J. Parlane, W. Parlane, and Wolferstan were amongst the most prominent on the home side, and in the forward division the visitors were superior, though the College representatives played a hard game, especially during the last few minutes.

The teams were as follows : –

Gloucester. – A. F. Hughes, back; T. Bagwell, C. E. Brown (captain), W. Jackson, and A. R. Kent, three-quarter backs; S. A. Ball and W. George, half-backs; A. Cromwell, J. Williams, C. Williams, R. Jenkins, A. Collins, E. Ellis, A. H. Gorin, and C. Williams, forwards.

Royal Agricultural College. – Poyser, back; Gresson, Dykes, and Smith, three-quarter backs; W. Parlane and J. Parlane, half-backs; Wolferstan (captain), Druce, Elliott, Bradshaw, Peel, Dicken, Whitley, C. Smith, and Webb, forwards.