

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

FEBRUARY 22, 1890.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE v. MIDLAND COUNTIES.

This match was played at the Spa on Thursday in the presence of a good number of spectators. The ground was in a wretched condition. Up to the present encounter the home county had an unbroken record, having defeated both Somerset and Devonshire.

Baker started the game, defending the railway goal, and play began in earnest about midway. C. E. Brown finished up a round of passing by kicking into touch near the visitors' 25 flag, where, however, it did not remain long, the visiting forwards rushing the ball to near the half-way flag. At the home five-and-twenty the game was most hotly contested. Parlane was splendidly stopped by Marsden after a magnificent dribble.

Taking a pass from Marsden, Sully ran almost to the home goal, where he was brought down in fine style by Hughes. Here the visitors made a determined attack on the home line, and but for the play of Bagwell and Hughes would have scored. Marsden got in a kick, but Gloucester played up strongly, and after a struggle cleared their lines by a clever run by Baker.

Bad passing lost the ground gained, however, and Brown was called upon to stop an ugly rush by Evershed, Mayne, and Deykin. Soon after Evershed got clear, but was brought down by George in the nick of time. Hughes got in a kick, from which Evershed secured a "free," nothing, however, coming of it. C. Williams relieved by a fine dribble to the centre, where Witcomb carried on the ball, and was not stopped until well within the Counties' twenty-five. The home team strove hard to score, but were repulsed, and half-time arrived with no point registered on either side.

On the teams crossing over the visitors kicked off. Bagwell was again prominent by cleverly dribbling to the visitors' twenty-five flag. Several scrimmages were now formed, but neither side could gain any material advantage, the teams being splendidly matched.

Harrison got a "free" in an easy position, but the heavy state of the ball frustrated Sully's attempt to cover the goal-post, and Hughes very pluckily kicked into play. First one side got the advantage and then the other, and so the match was contested; and at the call of time no score had been obtained by either side, and the game was left drawn slightly in favour of the Midland Counties, who scored a touchdown.

Gloucestershire : Hughes (Gloucester), back; Brown, Bagwell, (Gloucester), Kent (Cheltenham), three-quarter backs; Parlane (Cirencester), George (Gloucester), half-backs; C. Williams, J. Williams, Witcomb, Simpson (Gloucester), Baker (captain), Edwards, Lockey (Clifton), Wolfenstein, Druce (Cirencester), forwards.

Midland Counties : Bennett (Crusaders), back; Sully, Marsden (Burton), Harrison (Rugby), three-quarter backs; Slatter (Crusaders) and Rogers (Moseley), half-backs; Mayne, Lycett, Morris, Burgess, Sturges, Richardson, Deykin (captain), Evershed, and Laurie, forwards.