

GLOUCESTER JOURNAL

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The Week's Sport.

The Gloucester Football Club brought their season to a close on Saturday last, when instead of the original fixture with Bristol, the return with Swansea was played at Swansea.

The match was looked forward to with the gravest misgivings in Gloucester, after the experience of the previous week, and the result was no surprise on account of the extent of the defeat, a larger one being generally looked for. The fact that a goal and a try was all Swansea were able to put on against an inferior team of Gloucester is clear proof that there was something radically wrong at Cardiff, and that the score in that match affords no criterion upon which to calculate the comparative strength of Gloucester and Cardiff.

The game at Swansea was exciting, but was mainly confined to the forwards, and was very evenly contested, the result being in the balance up till a few minutes from the end. The day was gloriously fine, the ground was in capital condition, and everything favoured a good game, about 6,000 persons turning out to witness the match.

Swansea had their full team up, but Gloucester were by no means at their strongest. A. E. Healing, G. J. Whitcomb, H. V. Page, and J. Williams found themselves unable to make the journey, and in consequence, Gorin, Ellis, T. Collins, and C. Williams (2) filled the places vacated by the former.

However, the visitors played a hard and brisk game, their only fault being that they exerted themselves rather too severely when playing against the wind and sun in the first half, and were pumped out before the end.

But they deserve praise and congratulation for their good display, which did a great deal towards retrieving the lost reputation of the club, and the former high position which it occupied in the eyes of the Welsh footballers.

We have already said the game was exciting and evenly contested, and the fact that playing with the wind and sun at their backs during the first half Swansea only succeeded in scoring a try is a strong verification of this statement. Against the wind Gloucester played in splendid style, and had by no means the worst of the bargain, several times threatening the Swansea line as the outcome of smart passing and running, once, in particular, D. Gwynne just saving a score by a timely and excellent tackle.

The home men were several times uncomfortably near the Gloucester goal line also, their forwards playing a sterling game. But the dribbling rushes of the visitors' "ups" were very effective, and several times relieved the pressure, and transferred the scene of action to the opposite end. D. James more than once caused some anxiety to the Gloucester men, and just before half-time, from a "scrum" in close proximity to the visitors' goal line, he secured possession of the oval and slipped over, registering the first try of the match. The kick being difficult Bancroft was not equal to the task of converting, and at half-time only a try separated the teams.

With the sun and wind behind them Gloucester started the second half with a good prospect of success, and set about their opponents with a will, swarming round their goal in real earnest. The home team's defence was, however, very strong and Gloucester were unable to break through, whilst, after a quarter of an hour or 20 minutes' more hard play, the forwards began to lag, and show signs of fatigue, which were not in the least apparent in the Swansea lines. The latter forwards played up surprisingly, and rushed Gloucester considerably, and in one of these rushes the ball was dribbled over the line, and Charles was just in time to dive beneath Hughes and secure another point, which placed the issue beyond all doubt, the more so when Bancroft kicked a neat goal.

There were not many minutes left for play, and they were unproductive of any special feature, the game resulting as above stated, and Gloucester leaving the field beaten, but having counteracted their previous disgrace.

The backs, who had more opportunity of distinguishing themselves than at Cardiff, played well, prosecuted their passing game cleverly and accurately, and often with considerable effect, though not exactly the effect that was desired, and showed more dash and finish in their play generally than at Cardiff. The forwards were, on the whole, very active and smart. All-round Swansea played a strong game, and probably the best XV won.

The following were the names of the Gloucester team : –

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, R. Jenkins, C. Williams, J. Williams, E. Ellis, A. Collins, T. Collins, and A. H. Gorin, forwards.