

# THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

FRIDAY JANUARY 1, 1926

## FOOTBALL NOTES

There was quite a feast of Rugby football served up for the delectation of the numerous supporters of the City during the Christmas holidays. On Monday the postponed County Championship match with Somerset was played, and no doubt a sound lesson was learnt. Somerset were without Francis, the 'Varsity three-quarter, otherwise both teams were fairly represented.

Corbett reappeared for the home County after an injury which has kept him out of the rugby field for several weeks. Milliner again deputised for Carter of Bristol, and came out of the ordeal with credit, his defensive play alone entitling him to high honours, but one often wishes he were more clean in opening up play. A lot of his passes to Taylor were often rather badly directed with the result that the Somerset men were on top of the home threes ere they eventually received the ball.

Somerset were very fortunate indeed to win this match by one solitary point, as both their tries were the outcome of bad blunders. Corbett's wild passing on several occasions was early taken advantage of by the Cider men one of whom intercepted and was over the line in a trice, Millington badly missing him. Gaisford goaled from an easy position. Before half-time they had added another goal and were thus 10 points to the good.

For practically the whole of the first half Somerset forwards outplayed the Gloucester[sic] pack, who were unaccountably slow, whereas the Somerset lot were fast in the loose, clever at dribbling and broke up and wheeled so quickly that the home eight seemed nonplussed. In addition to this, the visiting three-quarters lay so close to their opposing threes that as soon as the latter received the ball they were smothered with deadly tackles.

Gloucestershire, after some nice interpassing between Brown and Corbett opened their scoring with a try by Corbett. Millington failed with the kick, and at the interval Somerset led by 10 points to 3.

With this comfortable lead, after the interval Somerset made it a forward game and the home eight, playing with more dash, obliged, with the result that the game became a terrific struggle between the forwards.

Gloucestershire added two more tries in this half, both of which were in good positions, but Millington was decidedly poor with his place-kicking, in contradistinction to Boxing Day, when he goaled seven tries, Pickles also failed in his attempt and so Somerset were leading by 10–9.

With but 15 minutes to go the pace was a cracker; up and down the field the forwards swept, mainly owing to Twose and Gaisford, who kicked to touch on every occasion with a splendid length.

Gloucestershire forced scrum after scrum on the visitors' line, besides innumerable line-outs, but try as they could they failed to add to their score, and Somerset thus won a rather scraggy game by 1 point.

Of the home side, Millington was fairly sound without being brilliant at back, but was hardly the equal of Gaisford, who kicked a far greater length.

Taylor was closely watched by Twose and could do scarcely anything. The Somerset man, it should be said, was a bad offender in the offside rule. Corbett and Pickles were only moderate, and made a great mistake by standing too close to each other, with fatal results.

Voyce, Hore, and Shaw were prominent for the home team, but generally the Somerset pack were the better lot, and Gloucestershire will need to get some virile young forwards for their next County game.

The County championship has now devolved itself into an interesting struggle for supremacy in the West. Somerset have yet to meet Devon and the winners of this encounter will meet Gloucestershire again to decide the issue.

JC