

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1950

NARROW VICTORY FOR GLO'SHIRE IN HARD GAME

TO-DAY'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH BETWEEN GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND SOMERSET AT KINGSHOLM WAS A KEY GAME IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SOUTH-WESTERN GROUP, BOTH COUNTIES BEING STRONG CONTENDERS FOR THE HONOURS.

Somerset – who soundly beat Cornwall a fortnight ago – fielded a very formidable pack. Gloucestershire were relying on the same team that gained a runaway victory over Dorset and Wilts.

Somerset were forced to make two changes from the side originally announced. D. Coles (Weston-super-Mare) came in as hooker in place of D. M. Davis, who was injured in a recent police match, and R. T. Moule (Bristol) was playing in the centre in the place of Wright.

An England selector, H. B. Toft, was due to attend.

The teams : –

GLOUCESTERSHIRE : W. G. Hook (Gloucester); J. A. Gregory (Bristol), R. Sutton (Gloucester), J. C. Morgans (Lydney), J. Taylor (Lydney); D. Hughes (Lydney), L. W. Pearce (Cheltenham); T. W. Price (Cheltenham) capt., F. C. Hill (Bristol), E. C. McCall (Bristol), F. Steinhobel (Cheltenham), P. D. Young (Clifton), B. C. Dainty (Stroud), A. G. Hudson (Gloucester), D. G. Pratten (Bristol).

SOMERSET : G. C. Barrett (Weston-super-Mare); G. H. Addenbrooke (Bath), J. R. Griffin (Bristol), R. T. Moule (Bristol), J. Sainsbury (Weston-super-Mare); M. D. Corbett (Bristol), B. A. Tuttlett (Clifton); H. Bastable (Bridgwater), D. Coles (Weston-super-Mare), J. A. Scott (Bristol), E. G. Hopton (Bristol), I. Macey (Wellington), A. Lewis (Bath), A. M. Balm (Bristol), D. Gunson (Bristol).

Referee : Mr. B . H. L. Ewin (Notts.).

The weather was fine when Gloucestershire kicked off before a crowd of between 8,000 and 9,000.

Somerset were a man short before the game had been in progress three minutes, Scott being carried off with what appeared to be an injury to his ribs.

Somerset were the first to look dangerous with a rush almost to the Gloucestershire line and they took the lead after eight minutes when Barrett landed a nice penalty goal from 45 yards. Soon afterwards Hook was not far out with an excellent shot at a penalty goal from inside his own half.

There was not a great deal of open play in the early stages of the game, and although Hughes got the Gloucestershire three-quarters away on one occasion they could make little of the opportunity. Hook just failed with another shot at a penalty goal from a rather easier position.

Hook's missed chances

When a punt ahead by Morgans put Gloucestershire in an attacking position Somerset were penalised yet again from a scrum infringement, and once more Hook was just wide with his shot from a difficult angle.

The attendance was now about 10,000.

Although Gloucestershire managed to establish themselves in the Somerset half for a few minutes they showed little thrust, and Hook missed a fourth difficult penalty shot.

The first real thrill came when Gloucestershire half-backs, Pearce and Hughes, set their three-quarters in motion, and there was a roar from the crowd when Gregory outpaced three Somerset defenders, but he went into touch about 15 yards from the Somerset line.

Two further attempts by the Gloucestershire three-quarters to open up were checked by close Somerset marking. Not long before half-time outside half Hughes featured in a brilliant break through inside the Somerset half. He punted ahead, but Taylor and Morgans could not quite get the touchdown.

Subsequently Taylor dropped on the ball when it was carried over the Somerset line but a try was disallowed, the ball having been apparently knocked forward.

Hook missed yet another shot at a penalty goal.

HALF-TIME :
GLOUCESTERSHIRE Nil
SOMERSET 1 g (p.) (3 pts.)

Somerset re-started in great style. First Sainsbury almost got clear on the left wing and then Corbett, Lewis and Addenbrooke were all prominent in a fine inter-passing movement which had the Gloucestershire defence in trouble.

Gloucestershire fought back but when a Somerset forward took advantage of a loose ball Sutton had to touch down. Shortly afterwards Hook who had been having an unlucky afternoon with his kicking missed his seventh penalty shot, but none of them had been very easy.

Glo'shire take lead

The Somerset line was now subjected to severe pressure. Gregory, after a fast clever run, cross kicked and Taylor almost got over in the corner after a fine threequarter movement in which Morgans was prominent. But Gloucestershire got their score following the subsequent lineout. Tom Price forced his way over for a try which Hook converted with a fine kick from a very wide angle.

The later stages saw Gloucestershire attacking almost continuously, but Somerset resisted stoutly.

RESULT :
GLO'SHIRE 1 goal (5 pts.)
SOMERSET 1 gl. (p) (3 pts.)