

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1907

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

SOUTH-WEST CHAMPIONSHIP

GLOUCESTERSHIRE v. SOMERSET

TEN POINTS' WIN FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The four teams contesting in the South-Western Group of the County Championship were engaged in the second round to-day, Gloucestershire meeting Somerset at Taunton, and Devon and Cornwall being in opposition at Plymouth.

Gloucestershire, encouraged by their victory over Devon, took the field against Somerset full of confidence, despite the fact that the loss of Hudson's services robbed the county of their most dangerous three-quarter.

With this exception the fifteen was identical with the side which triumphed over Devon at Cheltenham.

Somerset, who were well beaten by Cornwall, made several alterations, but the revised side did not give entire satisfaction in some quarters.

The teams were : —

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: — A. Wood (Gloucester), full back; A. Lewis (Lydney), M. Neale (Bristol), V. Eberle (Clifton), E. F. Eberle (Clifton), three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent (Gloucester), F. Niblett (Cinderford), half-backs; W. Johns (Gloucester), D. Hollands (Gloucester), J. L. Mathias (Bristol), W. E. Meyer (Bristol), F. Teague (Cinderford), J. Nelmes (Lydney), F. T. Boucher (Clifton), W. Stinchcombe (Lydney).

SOMERSET: – Z. Sims (Taunton Albion); A. Chorley (Bridgwater), H. E. Shewring (Bristol), A. Parker (Bridgwater), A. G. Peace (Bridgwater) three-quarter backs; J. Jarvis (Bridgwater Albion), J. Larcombe (Bristol), half-backs; R. Dibble (Bridgwater Albion), T. Woods (Bridgwater Albion), H. Archer (Bridgwater Albion), W. Romans (Bridgwater), H. Cunningham (Bridgwater), G. V. Kyrke (Taunton Albion), P. Down (Bristol), S. Fussell (Moseley), forwards.

Referee : Mr. T. D. Schofield (Welsh Union).

### THE GAME

There were no further alterations in the teams. Mathias started for Gloucestershire, and clever play by Gent right at the start took the visitors well down. Somerset replied with neat passing, but Wood effected a good save. A bad transfer by Shewring lost ground for his side. The Gloucester[*sic*] forwards dribbled well. Sims was called upon, but he found touch near centre.

Heeling by Gloucestershire saw Gent open out nicely, and Eberle ran smartly, but his pass was spoiled. Dashing work by the Somerset forwards made headway. Subsequently the visiting backs passed brilliantly, but just failed to beat the defence.

Somerset worked out of danger, and subsequent operations were evenly contested at midfield. Jarvis started an attack on the left, but Shewring fumbled and Teague dribbled back finely. Here Woods (Somerset) was injured and had to retire.

Resuming, Somerset at once assumed the aggressive, and Shewring feeding Peace, the latter raced for the line. Wood, however, effected a superb tackle. Gent was instrumental in gaining relief, and later Meyer made headway with a fine bit of footwork. A splendid rush by the Gloucestershire forwards, headed by Johns, took the ball to Sims, who was well tackled. Jarvis put Somerset at the centre with a good kick, but Johns dribbled back in grand style, and Somerset were hotly pressed.

Gent and Niblett tried to break through by inter-passing, but failed. The home county eased the pressure, but lovely kicking by Wood put Gloucester on the attack again. The visitors had one or two good openings, but they were not accepted.

Somerset played up strongly, and good work by Larcombe gave the homesters a strong position. The Gloucester defence, however, was equal to the occasion, and a neat punt by E. Eberle transferred the game to midfield, where play was being contested at the interval.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucestershire ..... Nil  
Somerset ..... Nil

Somerset re-started, but a grand, combined rush by the Gloucestershire forwards took them right to the line. From the ensuing scrum Gent passed to Niblett, who threw wide to E. Eberle for the Cliftonian to cross with a try. Wood converted.

The Gloucester custodian replied finely to the kick-off, and the visitors quickly gained a good position. Cunningham, however, snapped up the ball in the loose, and ran some twenty yards before being upset. Neat work by Gent started the Gloucester backs, but Neale passed wildly with a fine opening.

Niblett next missed a transfer from Gent, and the Somerset forwards dribbled right away. Niblett stopped them in daring fashion, but the Gloucestershire line was hotly assailed. Rushing the scrums the home forwards made desperate efforts to score but the defence held out.

Off-side by Johns and Nelmes lost Gloucestershire ground, Shewring finding touch nicely with the resultant penalty. The visitors changed the venue with capital footwork, and the centre was the scene of operations. Tricky play by Gent, who punted and following up gained possession, gave Gloucestershire an attacking position, but it was not maintained.

A desperate rush by the Somerset forwards transferred operations to the other end, where Dibble was only grounded in time. Good kicking by Wood brought the game to midfield, where the visiting forwards, displaying grand footwork, had the line at their mercy. Sims, however, effected a very fine save. His kick out went straight to Lewis, who had a nice opening, but he slipped and lost the opportunity.

The next minute Gent and Niblett combined nicely, and E. Eberle was given possession. The Cliftonian made a great effort to cross, but was held up outside. After this Gloucestershire missed two lovely openings through faulty handling. The visitors continued to have all the game, but failed lamentably behind.

Somerset made a spurt and reached the Gloucester[*sic*] line, where Wood intercepted a pass and raced half the length of the field. He delayed his transfer a little too late, and the try was just lost. Somerset cleared from the dangerous position.

Near midfield Johns took advantage of fumbling by the Somerset backs and dribbled beautifully. He took the ball over the line and Neale racing up scored. Wood again goaled, and the end immediately came.

#### RESULT :

Gloucestershire ..... 2 goals (10 points)  
Somerset ..... Nil

#### REMARKS

Gloucestershire were clearly the superior side, and the ten points' victory did not do the winners justice. The game, however, was a moderate one, the heavy ground greatly mitigating against accurate back play. Gloucestershire suffered more in this respect than their opponents, and several splendid openings were lost through failure to handle.

The Somerset forwards played a hard, dashing game, and though a man short did fine work. They continually beat the visitors in the lines-out, but in the scrums and the loose the teams were well matched.

Individually, Johns, Teague, Nelmes, and Hollands were the pick of the Gloucestershire front, the former performing brilliantly. Gent and Niblett worked in perfect harmony at half, showing cleverness and resource.

The threequarters, however, did not make the best use of their chances. The centres were at fault repeatedly, and of the wings E. Eberle was better than Lewis, who did not repeat his form at Cheltenham.

Wood fully sustained his reputation at full-back, and Sims also did well for Somerset.

The home forwards were best represented by Dibble, Kyrke, and Cunningham.

JC