

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

MARCH 22, 1902

FOOTBALL AND ATHLETICS

Gloucester gained a triumph on Saturday when they met and defeated Bristol by 11 points to 6. On the day's play they were undoubtedly the better side, especially in the loose rushes, where their superiority was most pronounced. They crossed the Bristol lines thrice, while the latter were only able to get over the home line on one occasion.

Now the match is over, the Bristol critics are crying out that the visitors did not have a full team out, but even if they had been able to have had the assistance of Matthias, Claridge, and Davis, there can be no doubt but that they would have lost just the same. They could not send a special conveyance to Edinburgh for Baker, so they had to mourn his loss to the side. Thus the much vaunted talk of the Bristol scribes has once more been rudely scattered to the winds, and the team which had, up to Saturday, not been beaten by an English team, witnessed their own record interred on the Kingsholm Ground, where many other records have been buried.

The day was beautifully fine, and there was a very large attendance, the gate money amounting to just under £140. As soon as the game was started, Gloucester settled down, and rushed up to the Bristol line, and in the first five minutes, G. H. Smith scored a try, which Romans converted.

The Bristol scribes question the legality of the try, and assert that the ball was knocked on several times, but it was utterly impossible to see this from the Press box. The referee did not see that such was the case, nor did any of the Bristol players appeal to that official as to the legitimacy of the point. But of course this was one of the excuses for Bristol's defeat.

Then Hussey got in for Bristol through Romans failing to field the ball. Soon afterwards G. Hall got his side penalised, and Adamson landed a goal. At half-time Bristol led by 6 points to 5.

Upon the resumption of the game Gloucester were all over their opponents, especially in the loose, but play was far from interesting, as it was chiefly confined to the forwards. Lewis Smith, who was playing a dashing game, got through, and put Gloucester ahead with an unconverted try. The same player would have got in again had he not been badly fouled by Oates.

Just on the call of time, G. Hall cleverly tricked the opposing halves, and passing to Goddard, who jumped over Oates, scored, but Romans failed to add the additional points, and thus Bristol's long preserved record was gone, while Gloucester succeeded in their long cherished desire to wipe out the reverse which was inflicted on them by Bristol earlier in the season by a dropped goal and a try to a try.

Gloucester A and Bristol A played their return match on the County Ground, Bristol, on Saturday, the result being in favour of the latter by 15 points to nil.

GLOUCESTER v. COVENTRY

The following will represent Gloucester to-day (Saturday) : –

G. Romans, back; C. Smith, F. Rooke, J. Stephens, and L. Smith, three-quarter backs; G. Hall and E. Goddard, half-backs; C. Hall, A. H. Click, F. Westbury, B. Parham, –. Essex, F. Oswell, J. Jewell, and G. H. Smith, forwards.