

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

NOVEMBER 29, 1902

## FOOTBALL AND SPORT

Fortunately rain held off on Saturday, when Gloucestershire and Somerset met at Bristol, but the weather was dull, and uncertainty concerning it affected the attendance at the match. The gate was estimated at about 6,000 people. After the revisions which had been made in their ranks, the teams were evenly balanced, and there was an exciting and determined struggle for points in the Championship competition.

Stout kicked off, and his side promptly took up the attack, Stephens and Butcher opening out the game effectively. They gave Eberle a chance, but the Oxonian could not break through, being brought down by Timmins. The suddenness of the onslaught seemed to have taken Somerset unprepared, but once they settled down the forwards came away at a big pace.

In the stages immediately ensuing they proved themselves the superior pack, being more speedy, as well as heavier and smarter on the break up of the "scrum." They led successive attacks on the Gloucestershire lines, but Somerset were disappointing at half, and the ball was not sent out smartly at opportune moments.

Still, Forrest and Gamlin were prominent, and took a lot of tackling, the Blackheath man twice getting off along touch, and making a bold bid for a score. After all it was a battle royal between the forwards, and with rush and counter-rush play rapidly shifted up and down the field.

At the end of twenty-five minutes Vickery led an advance, in which Romans was overborne, and a pass by Cashnella gave Coles a clear run in. Gamlin was unable to convert the try, and at half-time the score read: Somerset, one try, Gloucestershire, nil.

At an early stage of the second half Gloucestershire took up the attack, but Bell offered a magnificent defence, and was the means of transferring play to the homesters' end. There Forrest came near scoring as the result of a big run down touch, being collared just in time. Eberle and Butcher effected relief with short sprints and touch-kicking, and by degrees the local team worked their way into their adversaries' territory.

The great pace at which the game had been fought was beginning to tell on the Somerset men, and in the concluding stages Gloucestershire kept up the pressure for minutes together. Transfers were given Hussey, but he could not clear, and after a futile attempt by Eberle he got away with a huge stride, and by sheer weight pierced the Somerset defence, scoring in a good position. Romans placed a goal.

The game continued in favour of Gloucestershire, who might have added points, but apparently they deemed it prudent not to run any risk by opening out the play. Final score : – GLOUCESTERSHIRE, 1 goal (5 points) ; SOMERSET, 1 try (3 points).

The teams were as under : –

Gloucestershire : G. Romans (Gloucester) (back), G. F. Eberle (Bristol), R. J. Goss (Lydney), E. Watkins Baker (Bristol), and P. Hussey (Bristol) (three-quarter backs), J. Stephens (Gloucester) and W. J. Butcher (Bristol) (half-backs), J .W. Jarman, N. Moore, T. Davis (Bristol), F. Stout (capt.) (Richmond), F. Goulding, A. Hawker, F. Click (Gloucester), and Fisher (Stroud) (forwards).

Somerset : R. M. H. Bell (Bridgwater Albion) (back), R. Forrest (Blackheath), H. J. Gamlin (Devon Albion), J .T. Timmins (Bath), and H. H. Sturt (Plymouth) (three-quarter backs), Goodchild (Weston) and C. Kingston (Bridgwater Albion) (half-backs), F. W. C. Coles (Devon Albion), W. A. Cooper (Castle Cary), R. Dibble, Cashnella (Bath), E. J. Andrews, A. H. Creedy (Bridgwater Albion), S. Vickery (Aberavon), and J. Pethick, (Weston-super-Mare) (forwards).

Referee : Mr. P. Gilliard (London).

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