

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1902

FOOTBALL AND SPORT

DEVON v. GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The weather tuned out fearfully bad for the Devon and Gloucestershire game, which was played at the Devonport Albion Ground, Devonport, on Saturday last. The County Executive had anticipated a record gate. But though between 8,000 and 9,000 people were present, the heavy rains kept a lot away. At the eleventh hour both sides underwent alteration, and places had to be found in the home ranks for C. Matters, who was injured in the trial on Wednesday last, A. J. R. Roberts, and George Williams, one of their International forwards. Gloucestershire also had to reorganise their side, Eberle, Smith, and Jarman, being away.

The opening stages of the struggle favoured the 'Cestrians, who had the incline in their favour, and but for some fine work by Irvin, Stout must have gone across. Devon were beaten forward in the first quarter, but they then got to work in something like their proper form, and, getting the ball out, Duffin and Howell opened play. The old Albion halves combined as well as ever they did, and, playing magnificently under the unpleasant and unfavourable conditions, Harrell broke clean away to Romans. He then sent out to Cribbett, but the wing man missed the easiest of chances. Vivyan was held by Goss after a big effort, and by easy stages the visitors worked out.

A penalty against the home forwards caused the Devon backs to defend for all they were worth, but again the halves and Vivyan came to the assistance of the home side, and Devon were attacking hotly, but without much system, when the interval came. The change of ends saw the home side immediately set on the aggressive, and a beautiful run by Harrell almost resulted in Vivyan getting clear.

For a quarter of an hour Devon pegged away ten yards from their opponents' line, but every one of their moves was carefully stopped. The defence throughout was vastly superior to the attack, but the latter was persistent, and had the ground been in a drier condition, the Devonians would have won. Needs twice drove Devon back, and kicking into the open, gave Goss and Hannan chances, but the home backs were faster and easily stopped. One combined rush by Devon looked all over a scoring move, and Duffin rushed to cross, but a "scrum" outside was the order. The "scrum" worker went across again to all appearances, but the referee did not give the point, and Gloucestershire cleared.

There was a "mull" between Fleet and Cribbett, and Goss, picking up, raced to the home goal, where Irvin pulled him over. The visitors opened play, and Baker dropped at goal. The leather struck the cross-bar, bringing it down, and Devon easily cleared. The home forwards again took up the attack, but they could never pierce the defence, and the game ended in a pointless draw. The following were the teams : –

Devonshire : S. H. Irvin (Devonport Albion) (back); P. L. Nicholas (Exeter), E. J. Vivyan (Devonport Albion), G. Fleet (Torquay Athletic), and A. Cribbett (Torquay Athletic) (three-quarter backs); W. Duffin (Plymouth) and S. Harrell (Devonport Albion) (half-backs); D. Dobson (Newton), L. H. Tosswell (Exeter), J. Evans (Plymouth), W. Blackmore (Exeter), A. Avery (Plymouth), and R. Gilbert, W. H. Heppell, and D. Cooms (Devonport Albion) (forwards).

Gloucestershire : G. Romans (Gloucester) (back); P. Hussey, E. J. Watkins-Baker (Bristol), F. J. Hannan (Clifton), and R. J. Goss (Lydney) (three-quarter backs); W. Needs and W. J. Butcher (Bristol) (half-backs); F. Oswell, C. Click, A. Hawker, and B. Parham (Gloucester), T. Webb, T. Davis, N. Moore (Bristol), and F. Stout (Richmond) (forwards).

Referee : Mr. P. Gilliard (London).