

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

FEBRUARY 14, 1903

FOOTBALL AND SPORT

GLOUCESTER v. BRISTOL

A good struggle resulted from the meeting of the Gloucester and Bristol teams at Gloucester on Saturday. Although Bristol could not send a full team, yet they were able to do what no other English team has accomplished this season, viz., lower the Citizens' colours on their own ground.

The home lot fielded their strongest team, Frank Stout taking Goulding's place in the pack. On the Bristol side, Baker and Eberle were away, while Butcher is not now able to play, having left Bristol. There were about 3,000 spectators present, but the game was robbed of much of its interest by the prevalence of a boisterous wind, which practically blew from goal to goal.

Losing the toss, Gloucester started against the wind. The visitors commenced very strongly, the forwards at once asserting their superiority over the Gloucester pack. The play was fast and of a very exciting character. Bristol, by good forward work, were soon giving the home defenders trouble, Collett stopping one rush finely.

Gibson made a good attempt to drop a goal, the wind just turning the ball outside the posts. Continuing to press, by the aid of superior tactics Needs unsuccessfully dropped at goal. Frank Stout was showing his colleagues a splendid example, but there is no doubt that the Gloucester forwards, on the day's play, were a very much inferior lot to the opposing pack, while whenever Gloucester did get going, and it was very rare that we saw anything approaching a combined movement, Shewring and Bartlett got in the way. The former gave a very clever exhibition, his tackling and kicking into touch being a feature of the game.

Gibson got a nasty knock on the head, and was off the field for a few minutes. He returned, however, to see "Whacker" Smith break away in fine style from a line out, but he was pulled down before he got to the line.

Gloucester were now having the best of the exchanges, and from a "scrum" Morgan broke through, and passing to Oswell at the right moment the latter finished up a pretty little bit of work by scoring an unconverted try. But they did not enjoy their lead for long.

Putting, if anything, renewed energy into their play, Bristol worked down, and Matthias, taking a pass from Needs, ran over in a good position, Moore goaling.

At the interval Bristol led by five points to three. With the wind behind them, it seemed any odds on Gloucester, but, on the other hand, Bristol not only managed to hold their own, but narrowly missed adding to their score on more than one occasion.

Towards the end Gloucester were playing the better game, and Lewis Smith should have scored.

Bristol certainly deserved their victory, narrow though it was. In almost every department they were better than the home lot. Forward they were decidedly superior, though no one, from an individual point of view, did better than Frank Stout, who was in great form. Romans did some good work at full back, and it is some time since Oates played such a safe game.

Needs was the pick of the halves on either side, while the Gloucester three-quarters were not to be compared with the Bristolians. Lewis Smith was dead out of form. Shewring was the best man on the winning side. Bristol have now won two out of the four games, and have now a splendid chance of becoming the county champions.

Result : – Bristol, 1 goal (5 points) ; Gloucester, 1 try (3 points).

The teams were : –

Gloucester : G. Romans (capt.) (back), C. Smith, J. Stephens, G. F. Collett, and Lewis Smith (three-quarter backs), F. Keys and L. Morgan (half-backs), A. H. Click, F. Westbury, A. Hawker, A. Purton, F. Oswell, G. H . Smith, B. Parham, and F. M. Stout (forwards).

Bristol : J. Oates (back), v. Bartlett, W. Shewring, R. G. Vaughan, and T. J. Gibson (three-quarter backs), W. Needs and F. G. Rice (half-backs), J. L. Matthias, J. W. Jarman, W. Herridge, F. Channon, T. Webb, E. Meyer, L. Thomas, and N. Moore (forwards).

Referee : Mr. F. W. Nicholls.

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