

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

APRIL 9, FOR APRIL 11, 1903

## FOOTBALL AND SPORT

Gloucester tried two new men against Northampton on Saturday – Williams, of Chepstow, at half, and Coldrick, who has just returned from Colombo, where he has been stationed with the 1st Gloucester Regiment, at three-quarter. Hudson (ill) and Stephens (injured) were unable to turn out, so that Lindsay Vears was given another chance on the wing.

Northampton did not bring their full team, three of the regular forwards being absent. Frank Stout once more turned out, so that Gloucester had a fairly strong team out.

The game, except for one or two bits of clever work in the part of the home third line, was not of a very interesting character. Gloucester attacked very strongly at the commencement, and Vears, who played a sterling game, soon gave his side the lead, the result of fine passing among the home backs. Romans failed to convert.

Then we had a long spell of forward play, the packs being about equally matched, and we had some exceedingly fine tussles. The backs on both sides played a ragged game, bad passing losing Gloucester at least a couple of tries, while Morgan played a very selfish game. Gloucester led at the interval by a try to nil.

Crossing over, Northampton put more heart into their work, but they never looked like scoring. Williams, who played a rattling game, and more than justified his selection, making several nice openings, his passing being particularly smart. Brown, the Northampton back, played a dashing game, and showed splendid nerve in the manner he stopped several nasty rushes on the part of the home vanguard, who were better than Northampton in the loose.

Towards the finish the Gloucester forwards livened up, and Westbury scrambled over after a fine loose rush. Collett took the place kick, but was beaten by the breeze.

Both teams were seen to much better advantage in defence than in attack, Romans showing his true form. Whacker Smith and Collett were not themselves, Vears being the pick of the three-quarter line. Coldrick played a hard, plodding game, and no doubt, with practice in passing, he will make a most useful reserve three-quarter.

Frank Stout was hurt just before the interval, and retired for a time. Though he played on to the finish it could be seen that he was in pain. As we have said, there was not much to choose between the two packs. Gloucester thoroughly deserved to win, and the half-dozen points they won by just about represent the difference in the teams on the day's play.

The teams were : –

Gloucester : G. Romans (back), C. Smith, C. Coldrick, G. F. Collett, and L. Vears (three-quarter backs), L. F. Morgan and G. Williams (half-backs), A. H. Click, Bert Parham, F. Westbury, G. H. Smith, F. M. Stout, F. Pegler, H. Harris, and W. Johns (forwards).

Northampton : W. Brown (back); C. Leigh, R. Orton, F. Coles, and L. Atterbury (three-quarter backs), T. H. Preston and H. E. Kingston (half-backs), J. Longland, G. Burke, A. Hobbs, E. Drage, J. West, J. Mason, A. Johnson, and H. Atterbury (forwards).

Referee : M. G. Thomas (Bristol).