

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

JANUARY 2, 1904

FOOTBALL NOTES

A rather amusing incident happened at the match between Gloucester and the Old Merchant Taylors at Gloucester on Saturday. Some of the Captain's admirers evidently did not relish the comments that appeared in these columns last week, and they showed their disapproval in the usual childish fashion. But perhaps they do not know that Pressmen are used to chaff, and the funny part of it lay in the fact that the paper and the representative, against whom all the "barracking" was directed, had the laugh at the finish.

Romans commenced well, in fact, he played his best game of the year. But, why conclude the hostile demonstration against poor "Half-Back" when Romans missed that easy goal? Vears made the task as easy as he could for him and even then he failed. It was not "Chronicle" Romans at this point! No; silence prevailed. And no wonder!

It was really a good game on Saturday. The Gloucester forwards excelled themselves, giving us a taste of their old form. It is true they were at a disadvantage in weight, while the Taylors got the ball out oftener, and were very smart at breaking away. But the Gloucester eight kept at it right to the end and "followed up" splendidly.

At half, Williams and Gent gave a magnificent display. The latter worked the scrums admirably, and it was really wonderful, how, when pressed, he got in his kicks, some of them being very clever. He gave Williams many opportunities of shining, and this player was never found wanting. He was the best man on the field, and there is no knowing what Gloucester's score would have been had the three-quarter line been strong.

Harrison once again stood out prominently, his kicking into touch being very good, while he once or twice made brilliant efforts to run through. Lindsay Vears also played a good game, but would do well to improve his pace. "Whacker" Smith showed his old weakness of tackling too high, and by no means played a good game. Stephens, on the other hand, played well, but where they are weak was in passing.

Gloucester all through played a clinking good game, G. H. Smith giving Romans a chance of distinguishing himself early on, he kicking a splendid goal. Prior to this he had hard lines from a penalty. The Taylors were a fine lot of fellows as far as physique goes, and several of them played a dashing game. Once Romans, amidst cheers, tackled Raphael, collaring him by the legs and grassing him as a footballer with grit should do. Altogether Romans showed unmistakable signs of regaining his old form, but he has yet to improve in his place kicking, in which department he had few equals a season or two ago. At the interval Gloucester led by a goal to nil.

Tries were obtained by Vears and Gough in the second half. Perhaps both the Committee and Romans will pardon me if I quote a remark dropped by a gentleman in the stand who hardly misses a match, when the home skipper missed goaling the try by Vears. "Disgraceful" was the comment, "he ought to let somebody else kick." He did, at least until he has regained all his own skill and confidence.

At full-back Lambeth was very weak, and neither Raphael, Harding, Tannahill, nor Buck could take a pass. The only place where the visitors shone was forward. In all other departments they were outclassed, and Gloucester ought to have won by at least three goals.

What will they do against Cheltenham to-day? If the weather and turf are favourable there should be a good game and a big crowd on the Kingsholm ground.