

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

FEBRUARY 13, 1904

## FOOTBALL NOTES

The match at Gloucester on Saturday was of a fairly interesting character, though it was to a great extent spoiled by the wretched state of the ground, which, in places, was like a quagmire. Considering the fact that Gloucester the previous week were only beaten by a goal to a dropped goal at Newport, it was thought by all Gloucestersians who follow the game that Bristol were in for a defeat.

Seeing that the two previous games this season had been won by Bristol very naturally the homesters were on their metal[sic], revenge being their great aim. Fortunately they were able to field a good fifteen, Lindsay Vears being the only prominent absentee; Hudson again going on the wing.

Bristol had Oates and Lamond away, Scott going full back, but he was not a success, in addition to which he was hurt and off the field for a time in the second half. Of course correct football was totally out of the question, the ball being too heavy and greasy to permit of passing with any degree of accuracy. Consequently the game was chiefly of a forward character.

Much interest was centred in Butcher the international half, and if any notice is to be taken of his display on Saturday, then those who are of opinion that he is a very much over-rated player have some justification for coming to such a conclusion. Certainly Gent gave an infinitely more clever and finished exhibition than Butcher.

Gloucester were beaten forward especially in the tight scrums but in the loose they held their own fairly well. There was, however, a good deal of rambling play, but in the end Bristol retired well beaten.

Goulding got the first try, Romans failing to convert. In the second half, however, he kicked a splendid goal from a penalty, and Harrison got a remarkably clever try which Romans majorised making the score 11 points to nil, which was the state of the game at the finish. None of the players of either side can be said to have done themselves justice. The conditions of the ground would not permit of them doing so.

Shewring was the best man on the Bristol side, and Harrison and Gent were the pick of the home lot, of whom the forwards played a hard plodding game, but were not so weighty a lot as the Bristol pack who controlled the scrums and heeled out at times in rare style, but the backs were unable to do anything when they did get the ball.

Gent certainly did more effective work than Butcher, and it is a pity that he cannot play against Devonport Albion to-day. I understand that he is unable to get away from College. It is also doubtful if Williams, who hurt his knee on Saturday, will be fit. Harrison is not very well, but is nursing himself and hopes to be able to turn out.

JC