

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

FEBRUARY 20, 1904

## FOOTBALL NOTES

On an extremely heavy ground, mud being very plentiful especially in front of the stand, Gloucester received their first defeat since Boxing Day on the Kingsholm Ground on Saturday, the victors being Devonport Albion.

Correct football was of course totally out of the question, but nevertheless an interesting game ensued. Gloucester had practically a full team out, Lindsay Vears appearing on the wing vice Hudson, and contrary to expectation, that clever half-back Gent turned up, Williams and Harrison also being able to play. The Albion were minus Vivyan who was assisting England to beat Ireland, and Irvin went in the three-quarter line, the veteran Dean being full back.

The game needs little description. The visitors who could give Gloucester stones in weight, were, on the day's play an all-round better team. Forward, Gloucester were decisively beaten, and certainly the Devon backs played a better game than did the 'Cestrians.

It was a forward game of a decidedly scrambling character, and the six points gained by the Devonians about represents the difference between the teams, though there was some doubt about the last try, which was scored just on time. To me and many others it appeared that Hoskings went into touch. However, the point was allowed, and I think everyone who saw the game will admit that they deserved their victory.

Williams, from an opening made by Coles, scored the other try during the initial half of the game. Romans was badly hurt in the early stages of the second portion, and had to have bandages applied to a wound on his head. He, however, very pluckily continued to play on and showed excellent defence at times, and got his side out of several difficult situations.

The heavy ground and the advantage of weight in the visitor's pack told its tale on the Gloucester forwards, who however, played a plucky game right to the end. Gent was again in good form, and Harrison did many smart things, but was watched a little too closely or he might once have effected a score; indeed he made one or two brilliant efforts to burst through, but the Devon defence was not to be beaten.

To-day Gloucester go to Swansea.

JC