

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1932

SOUTH-WEST CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES TO-DAY

DEVON CHALLENGE THE HOLDERS

BIG TEST FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE FORWARDS

FROM W.B.'s NOTEBOOK

The first round in the South Western group of the County Championship engaged chief attention to-day, Gloucestershire meeting Devon at Kingsholm, and Cornwall and Somerset contesting for supremacy at Bath. The usual keen struggles were anticipated.

Holders of the Championship for the past three years, Gloucestershire are not without hope of adding to their triumphs. The South West Section is the smallest of the Groups; but nowhere is the fight for leadership more strenuous.

Devon gained a decisive victory over the Champions at Exeter last season, but disappointed in subsequent contests. What happened to-day at Kingsholm? Gloucestershire were favourites, but there is always a possibility of an upset in these needle games.

Devon's last visit to the City Club headquarters was in season 1928-9, when Gloucestershire won by 13 points to nil, but in a replay at Torquay the tables were turned, Devon winning by 11 points to nil.

FOUR YEARS AGO

Of the victorious Gloucestershire team four years ago, only Brown, James, Burland, and Carter (all backs) were in the side selected for the Champions this afternoon.

The forwards were a completely new set, but the majority had had previous experience of championship football. The Devon team had also undergone numerous changes, the six players who appeared in the 1928-9 game being Scourfield, Bell, E. Richards, Sparkes, Brigstocke, and Wilson.

The Devon team did not do any too well against the Police Union team, but form in these friendly games is not altogether reliable, and Gloucestershire did not under-rate the task they had on hand this afternoon. The Champions' big test was forward, where Devon always command the greatest respect. Behind the scrum Gloucestershire appeared to have the stronger combination, but the visitors had individual players of experience and ability, especially Delahay, Richards, Scourfield, and Webber.

There was every promise of a close game, and if Gloucestershire emerged victors by a few points, the County would be satisfied. This was the Champions' only Group fixture at home; Somerset and Cornwall have to be met away.