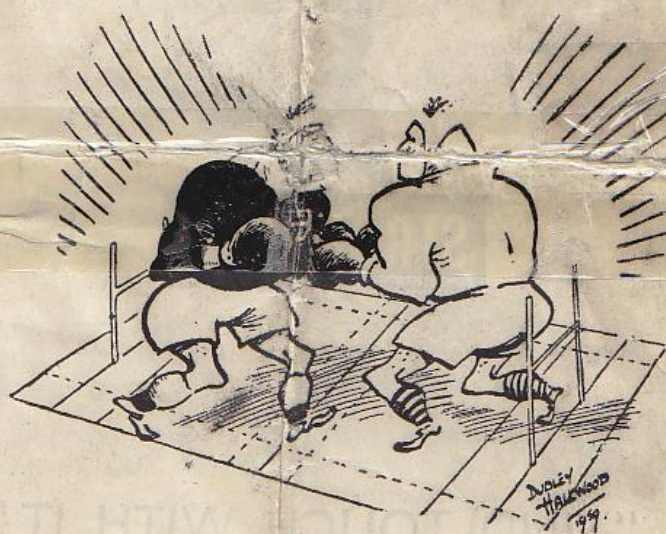


**COUNTY
CHAMPIONSHIP**
Semi-final

DURHAM
v.
GLOUCESTERSHIRE



**NEW FRIARAGE
HARTLEPOOL**

Saturday February 21st 1959
(3 P.M.)

6^D

A MEMORABLE DAY FOR RUGBY IN THE NORTH EAST

This is a memorable occasion for Rugby in the north east—especially, of course, for Durham county, though there are sure to be many enthusiasts at today's game from Northumberland, Yorkshire, and even Cumberland.

Though it may not be obvious when the counties are in opposition, there is a great loyalty within the northern group. Even Yorkshire and Lancashire, who for so long have dominated the division, were among the first to offer their congratulations when Durham won the northern title for the first time in 27 years.

To be sure, Durham put the hearts of their well-wishers in their mouths in their progress to today's encounter. After scraping home at Cocker-mouth against Cumberland and Westmorland, they won well in Cheshire, and then produced two first-rate displays to defeat the might of Lancashire (at Blaydon) and Yorkshire (here at the New Friarage)—what a game that was !

THAT NORTHUMBERLAND "DERBY".

But, as happens so often in the "Derby" game with Northumberland, the bubble burst. Perhaps it was the thought a draw would do—or was it the atmosphere of the County Ground, or the grim determination of their near-neighbours ? Whatever the reason, Durham lost.

One feared the morale of the Durham side would suffer when they came to meet Cheshire in the play-off, but unfortunately—or fortunately (it depends which how one cares to regard it)—that tie was postponed three times.

When Durham did take the field, it was soon obvious their old spirit had returned, and Cheshire were well beaten. Durham's supporters have no reason to suppose it has deserted them today.

What of Gloucestershire ? They, too, were involved in a play-off for the south-western title, having been beaten by Somerset 13-6 in their first match. In the "decider", they made no mistake with a 12-6 triumph.

In the quarter final—an extra game for them as compared with Durham—they defeated Dorset and Wilts 18-0.

With eight Bristol players, and five from Gloucester, their team spirit should be excellent too.

And so to battle, and may the better side win.



Durham

Colour : MAROON

1. **W. CHARLTON** (Gosforth)
- † 2. **G. HUNTER** (Gateshead Fell)
3. **H. KNOX** (Moseley)
4. **J. M. DEE** (Hartlepool Rovers)
5. **F. C. INGLIS** (Billingham)
- † 6. **M. P. WESTON** (Durham City)
7. **A. C. W. A. ECCLES** (Edinburgh Univ.)
8. **G. GRACE** (Coventry)
- † 9. **S. A. M. HODGSON** (Durham City)
10. **D. JESSON** (Hartlepool Rovers)
11. **B. M. STONEMAN** (Darlington G.S.O.B.)
12. **J. L. WRIGHT** (Darlington G.S.O.B.)
13. **A. MITCHELL** (Billingham)
- † 14. **T. G. A. H. PEART** (Hartlepool Rovers)
- † 15. **J. W. COLLARD** (Headingley) **Capt.**

Referee : **D. Thatcher** (London Society)

Full Backs
Three-quarters
Right Wing
Right Centre
Left Centre
Left Wing
Half Backs
Stand Off
Scrum Half
Forwards
Prop
Hooker
Prop
Second Row
Second Row
Wing
Lock
Wing

* International
† Trialist

Gloucestershire

Colour : WHITE WITH CREST

1. **I. SHEEN** (Gloucester)
- † 2. **M. G. ELLERY** (Bristol)
- † 3. **L. D. WATTS** (Bristol)
4. **J. RADFORD** (Bristol)
5. **T. WYNNE-JONES** (Bristol)
6. **A. HOLDER** (Gloucester)
- † 7. **M. BOOTH** (Gloucester)
8. **R. FOWKE** (Stroud)
- † 9. **J. THORNE** (Bristol)
- * 10. **G. HASTINGS** (Gloucester)
- † 11. **D. NEATE** (Bristol)
12. **B. GREEN** (Gloucester)
13. **R. WHYTE** (Harlequins)
- † 14. **G. CRIPPS** (Bristol)
15. **T. BASE** (Bristol)

Touch Judges : **H. B. Elliott & J. V. Smith**

GLOUCESTERSHIRE PEN PICTURES

1. I. SHEEN (Gloucester).

Born in Wales. Played for Abertillery and Ebbw Vale before moving to Gloucester, where he played regularly at stand-off and centre as well as full-back. Has been reserve for Welsh trials.

2. M. G. ELLERY (Bristol).

A track sprinter in the summer months, is obviously a very fast wing three-quarter. Played in the first England trial this season. Is at present working in the Hull branch of his firm. Is the leading try-scorer in the very successful Bristol team.

3. L. D. WATTS (Bristol).

An Oxford "blue" in his third year and just missed a cricket "blue" last year, having opened for most of the season. Plays for Gloucester II. Recently shown a return to form in the centre after illness, and will be making his first appearance in county football this season.

4. J. RADFORD (Bristol).

Is his club's most regular centre this season. Always at his best when with Watts as partner. Thrustful straight runner with a powerful hand-off and a deceptive side-step.

5. T. WYNNNE-JONES (Bristol).

Captain of Bristol's second string, but playing his second full season as left wing for Gloucestershire. A clever footballer, who plays mostly at stand-off. Has a good pair of hands.

6. A. HOLDER (Gloucester).

Plays for the Civil Service team in representative rugby. Vice-captain of Gloucester, and a graduate of local combination Rugby, being one of three members of the Spartan's Club in the side. Others are his scrum-half partner, Booth, and prop Fowke.

7. M. BOOTH (Gloucester).

Just 20, but already an experienced campaigner. No stranger to Durham's fly-half, M. P. Weston, for they were paired in the first England trial this season. Product of Sir Thomas Rich's School, Gloucester. Has the second best voice in the side.

8. R. FOWKE (Stroud).

Reserve for England trials this season, and many think will be "there" perhaps next year. Possessor of the best voice in the team! Fast, mobile and strong.

9. J. THORNE (Bristol).

One of the characters in the side, played in England trials last season—as did the Durham hooker. Many think he should be there in the England team as they do in the N.E. about Hodgson. Charges around like a rhino in the loose; strikes like an adder in the tight.

10. G. HASTINGS (Gloucester).

At 34, still one of the best prop forwards in the game. He has been capped 13 times for England, and has also played for the Barbarians. Product of Cheltenham G.S. Now lives in Cardiff. Place-kicker of note, too.

11. D. NEATE (Bristol).

An expert in the line-out, who has had England trials. Handles the ball better than many threequarters in open play. A product of a local Bristol club, Avonmouth Old Boys.

12. B. GREEN (Gloucester).

Another line-out expert who is considered in the west to have been most unfortunate not to gain a trial. Educated at Crypt G.S., Gloucester, and Bristol University. Also played for Old Cryptians.

13. R. WHYTE (Harlequins).

Former playing member of Clifton, left three seasons ago for Harlequins for whom he has played in practically every position. First "capped" by Gloucestershire as reserve scrum-half; in 1950 played stand-off against Glamorgan. Has since played for the county at prop, No. 8, and now on blind side. Recently played full back for Harlequins.

14. G. CRIPPS (Bristol).

Vice-captain of the successful Bristol side and captain in all but one match for Gloucestershire. Second player in the side over 30. Has had England trials. Probably the leading points-scorer in first-class Rugby today. Has over 125 for Bristol, and 25 for the county.

15. T. BASE (Bristol).

Another versatile player who gained his first county "cap" at scrum-half, then played for Bristol in the centre before being converted to wing forward. Fast breaking and a fine tackler, his determined backing up has brought him a pack of tries. Formerly with Old Cothamians.

Reserves to travel: K. WALTER (Cheltenham) and D. IBBOTSON (Gloucester).

GLOUCESTERSHIRE



This was the Gloucestershire team which beat Somerset in the play-off for the south western title (left to right) back row—T. Wynne Jones, K. Walters, D. Neate, P. Ford, B. Green, J. Radford, R. Whyte, T. Base. (Front row)—A. Holder, G. Hale, M. Booth, G. Hastings, R. Fowke, J. Thorne, M. Ellery.

Changes today : I. Sheen for Hale ; G. Cripps for Ford and L. Watts for Walters. They are shown insets.



The Durham Team of 1932 which lost 3-9 to Gloucestershire in the County Final.

Left to right—Back Row—J. S. Wood, E. Gissing, J. Storey, P. G. McLaren.
 Standing—G. R. Scott, F. G. Stephens (Referee), H. C. Lawson, R. Fairbridge, J. T. Roddam, S. B. Olsen, D. Lascelles, W. B. Allan, J. R. Corner, E. Watts Moses (Hon. Sec), E. B. Forster, G. Summerscales, C. Cox. Sitting—G. E. Carter (Pres.), W. T. Anderson, E. C. Mercer, A. McLaren, C. D. Aarvold (Capt.), J. G. Asken, R. Powney, W. J. Purvis (Hon. Treasurer), Front Row—F. Nicholson, C. P. B. Goldson, B. R. F. Mackay, A. C. Harrison, J. Taylor.



TODAY'S REFEREE

Mr. D. THATCHER from Farnborough (Kent), has never officiated in a game involving either Durham or Gloucestershire before, though he has been in the northern group.

Indeed, he took his first county match in Lancashire five years ago, and had the Cheshire-Lancashire match this season. A forward with Old Millhillians, he has been a referee for nine years with the London Society, and has been one of their top-grade officials for six years.

HOW THEY REACHED THE SEMI-FINAL

DURHAM		GLOUCESTERSHIRE	
Beat	CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND 6-3	Beat	CORNWALL..... 8-6
Beat	CHESHIRE 9-3	Beat	DEVON 11-3
Beat	LANCASHIRE 14-0	Lost	SOMERSET 6-13
Beat	YORKSHIRE 6-0	Beat	SOMERSET (Play-off) 12-6
Lost	NORTHUMBERLAND 0-3	Beat	DORSET and WILT'S (Quarter-final) ... 18-0
Beat	CHESHIRE (Play-off) 11-3		
Total 46-12		Total 55-28	

FINAL — versus WARWICKSHIRE (Holders).

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