

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

DECEMBER 3, 1881.

FOOTBALL.

Monmouthshire v. Gloucestershire. —

A picked team selected from each of these counties played a match under Rugby regulations, on the ground of the Newport Club, on Saturday.

Such was the condition of the turf, and the downpour of rain, that at first it was thought impossible to play. The teams decided otherwise, and entered on the ground at 3.20, determining to play one hour only.

They were selected as follows : —

Monmouth — W. Roseveare, back; J. Bridie and T. B. Jones, three-quarter backs; G. F. Harding, captain, and T. J. S. Clap, half-backs; G. Allen, H. S. Lyne, G. Lloyd Jones, W. Phillips, H. C. B. Phillips, R. Gould, J. H. Johnson, F. T. Purden, W. Young, and T. Peake, forwards.

Gloucestershire — J. D. Miller (Clifton) and H. J. Berry (Gloucester), backs; E. D. Evans (Clifton) and H. J. Boughton (Gloucester), three-quarter backs; E. W. Ball (Clifton) and W. F. Evans (Gloucester), half-backs; A. D. Greene (Clifton) captain, J. F. Brown (Gloucester), H. W. Packe (Clifton), P. B. Cooke (Gloucester), J. P. Bush (Clifton), W. Brown (Gloucester), H. C. M. Hirst (Clifton), W. J. Bayley (Gloucester), and J. C. Gitmore (Clifton), forwards.

The Gloucester captain kicked off, and for some time it appeared as though Monmouth were being pressed over their line, but Harding and some forwards got the ball up in the field, and play became dangerous for the visitors.

Not a player could stand fairly, such was the sodden condition of the soil. The visitors sent the play to the home quarters, and some difficulty was experienced in working the leather to the opposite goal.

Play was carried on in the centre of the ground for some time, and one of the Gloucester men, by a drop kick, sent the ball into touch against Monmouth. After kick off from the 25 yards Monmouth got away well, and by a stroke of smart play, Gloucester was compelled to touch down in self-defence.

The game went on slowly until Monmouth took the ball over the visitors' goal line and claimed a try. This was stoutly opposed, but the try was kicked under protest, and proved unsuccessful. This was the only point claimed as an advantage, and after half-time play was carried on under the most adverse and trying circumstances.

At the close the result was declared to be a victory for Monmouth with a "disputed" try and a touch-down to one touch-down for Gloucester. Despite the weather, some three hundred spectators were present.