

GLOUCESTER JOURNAL

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The Week's Sport.

The team that did battle for Gloucester on the Spa last Saturday, was by no means a representative one, as some half-dozen of the regular players were doing duty for their county at Bridgwater, and though they were certainly not the pick of the XV, still their absence materially weakened the team.

The visitors on the other hand were well represented, only one of their usual team being away. Hence the close and exciting game of Saturday, for though the Bath men showed considerable improvement on their form of some previous occasions, and, on the whole, played a good game, yet we doubt if they could hold their own against a representative Gloucester XV.

As we have said the game was an exceedingly close fight, and the spectators on one or two occasions towards the finish, when the home team were pressing their opponents and looked like scoring every moment, were very enthusiastic, not to say excited.

On the whole the home team had slightly the best of the play, though Bath occasionally looked very dangerous, and had hard lines in not scoring, particularly at one stage of the game when, after carrying the ball from their own 25, by means of a series of grand passing, in which department they quite excelled the home backs, their man was pushed into touch-in-goal, when he appeared certain to score.

The try secured by the home team, was the result of a clever piece of play by A. H. Brown, who played well throughout, and that of the visitors was obtained, after a neat dodgy run, by T. N. Parham, who was indeed a "shining light," and who played a sterling game at half.

Of the home team the most noticeable amongst the forwards were Healing, who played a sound scientific game, Cromwell, Collins, and A. H. Brown, the latter of whom has scored on each occasion on which he has played for the first XV.

W. George showed fair form at half back, but his *confrère* C. E. Brown, who made his first appearance since the Willesden match in which he sustained a nasty cut under the eye, was weak and apparently out of his element.

Dere at three quarters did what he had to in a commendable manner, but Bagwell and Coates monopolised most of the three-quarter play. Bagwell was not up to form, but in the first half of the game Coates ran and kicked "just in the old sweet way."

Oswell's rest does not seem to have benefitted him, his reappearance in the team not being an altogether successful one.

The teams were as follows : —

Gloucester : J. N. Oswell, back; G. W. Coates, T. Bagwell, and R. Dere, three-quarter backs; W. George and C. E. Brown, half-backs; T. G. Smith (captain), A. H. Brown, T. Collins, A. Cromwell, W. H. Fream, R. George, A. E. Healing, H. G. Brown, and T. Taylor, forwards.

Bath : F. W. Anderson, back; C. B. Moneypenny, S. Swabeg, and B. S. Cave, three-quarter backs; T. N. Parham and C. J. Moneypenny, half-backs; F. Soane, W. Sutton. W. Baff, C. A. Knight, W. Eddots, H. Vincent, C. Hayward, W. Lavis, S. Rossiter, forwards.

- Gloucestershire played Somersetshire at Bridgwater on Saturday, and, as most people expected, the former were easily defeated, two goals and five tries being a considerable beating.

Some of the county matches as played now-a-days are complete farces, as teams are scarcely ever representative of the full strength of the shires; and this was the case on Saturday with the Gloucestershire team.

The weakest spot seemed to be the forwards, who were simply not in it, and we understand that it would have been as well if some of them had not been there, for all the work they did.

The following were the teams : –

Glass (Wiveliscombe), C. E. Smith (Weston-super-Mare), three-quarters; R. Escott (Wiveliscombe), F. H. Fox (Wellington), half-backs; H. G Fuller (Bath), A. A. Glass (Wiveliscombe), P. F. Hancock (Wiveliscombe), E. Hancock (Wiveliscombe), W. H. Manfield (Yeovil), R. M. P. Parsons (Yeovil), H. Patterson (Weston-super-Mare), A. J. Bernord (Wellington), S. M. J. Woods (Bridgwater), forwards.

Gloucester. – A. F. Hughes (Gloucester), back; H. E. Taylor (Gloucester), F. W. Phillips (Newent), G.W. Crook (Redland Park), three-quarter backs; S. A. Ball (Gloucester), W. Troup (Clifton), half-back; H. C. Baker, J. W. Palmer, F. May, F. Leonard (Clifton), R. Edwards (Bristol Medicals), H. L. Boughton, G. Witcomb, F. Smithin, E. D. Tandy (Gloucester), forwards.

Umpire; H. C. Hurst (Clifton).

The Rev. J. S. Hill (Tiverton), was the referee.