

GLOUCESTER JOURNAL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1888.

The Week's Sport.

The result of the match, Gloucestershire v. Devonshire at Exeter on Saturday, makes one wonder what would have happened if a representative team had journeyed into Devonshire. As originally selected the back divisions of the Gloucester First XV were to have done service for the county. In consequence of the county executive paying railway fares only, and not hotel expenses to the player, this arrangement collapsed; and though Gloucester did supply the whole of the backs, one of the three-quarters was a second fifteen man, and the other a forward.

This is not in disparagement of these men; on the contrary they seem to have performed in a capital manner, but the fact remains that the team was not what a representative county team should be. County teams and county trials are often farces, and the Gloucestershire team is among these.

Had it not been for the Maori match we believe that the Gloucester men would have held aloof from county football this season; probably they may do so next year. It is to be hoped they will. Were they to dub themselves the county team they would probably meet the neighbouring counties with greater chances of success than the so-called Gloucestershire team.

A report of Saturday's game (which resulted in a draw, each side scoring two tries) says:

The ground was in rather a treacherous condition, but after a splendid game, the result was a draw, slightly in favour of the home county. In the first portion of the game Gloucester, from their superior combination and passing, seemed to have a safe thing in hand, and secured the first two tries with seemingly comparative ease.

Afterwards the home county warmed up to their work, and at half-time had equalised matters. In the latter portion of the game, although both sides did their very utmost to score, they were unsuccessful. Gloucester, however, were compelled to save twice to their opponents' once, so that the home county had virtually the best of the match.

For Gloucester, Hughes, at back, was cool and safe, and proved invaluable to his side on several occasions of imminent peril. Of the three-quarters, Cromwell was the most prominent by his fine running and kicking. Grist and Dere were, however, fully equal to the occasion when required. Ball played an exceptionally fine game at half, and was ably seconded by George.

The forwards were undoubtedly a grand lot, and it would be almost invidious to particularise; but Baker, Taylor, and Wolferston deserve a word of praise for their hard work.

For Devon, Cutcliffe, at back, was somewhat slow, although he made no fatal mistakes. Stork, Hussey, and Pring, at three-quarters, were all good, although the former must be awarded the palm for his consistent and plucky play.

Herring, at half, was invaluable to Devon, and his determined pluck was loudly and warmly cheered. Pengelly also fully justified his selection. The whole of the home forwards worked splendidly, especially in the latter portion of the game.

The following are the names of the teams : –

Devon. – M. Cutcliffe (Bartholomew Hospital), back; J. B. Stork (Newton), J. W. Hussey (Exeter), and W. J. Pring (Exeter), three-quarter backs; F. Herring (Tiverton) and J. Pengelly (Albion), half-backs; M. W. Ball (Newton), E. Carter (Albion), Cooper (Plymouth), E. N. Gardiner (Newton), Goodwyn (Exeter), G. C. Lovesay (Crediton), Mallett (Albion), C. Mudge (Exeter), and L. Harding (Exeter), forwards.

Gloucester. – A. F. Hughes (Gloucester), back; R. Grist (Gloucester), Dere and Cromwell (Gloucester), three-quarter backs; S. A. Ball (Gloucester) and W. George (Gloucester), half-backs; J. Faulkner (R. A. College), C. A. Wolferton (R. A. College), C. J. Porcher (R. A. College), H. C. Baker (Clifton), F. M. May (Clifton), A. H. Brown (Gloucester), W. Taylor (Gloucester), T. Collins (Gloucester), and R. Edwards (Bristol Medicals), forwards.

An unfortunate accident occurred right at the close of the match, Hughes being thrown so heavily as to sustain an injury to his shoulder. This is unfortunate for Hughes and the Gloucester Football Club – particularly the former.