

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

JANUARY 19, 1889.

FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE v. SOMERSET.

About 5000 persons assembled at the Spa, Gloucester, on Saturday to witness this encounter. The ground was in a wretched condition, and rain and snow fell during the greater part of the game.

The Gloucester Club supplied no fewer than eleven of the players. From the outset it was apparent that the game would be a forward one, and both sides were evenly matched. The kick-off was followed by some evenly-packed scrimmages, and in the loose the home team dribbled in splendid style, George especially distinguishing himself.

On one or two occasions the visiting county severely pressed their opponents' goal-line, and the latter had to exert all they knew to prevent a score being effected, but, by a combined rush, Gloucester finally averted danger.

The two Hancocks, by good dribbling, returned to the attack, but Coates and Bagwell nullified their efforts, Coates putting in some powerful runs. Passing between S. Escott and Fox enabled Money Penny to carry the fray from the centre of the field to within the home quarter-flag, and Collins, Jenkins, S. W. Brown, and Taylor again took the ball to the centre, where a number of well-contested scrimmages followed. About now George secured the ball, and after a run, passed to Coates, who looked dangerous, until he was grassed in fine style by Winter.

As the game progressed neither side could claim any advantage before half-time, except that Gloucester[sic] touched down once from a long kick by Duckworth.

After changing ends, and a new ball having been provided, the contest became more fierce and furious, and the excitement of the spectators was intense. The kick-off was followed by scrimmages in the visiting county's territory until E. Hancock broke through with the ball at his feet and transferred hostilities to the other end. Bagwell, by a run and kick, removed play to mid-field, where Jenkins, Cromwell, and Faulkener put in a vast amount of forward work.

Thus the leather travelled up and down the field at a great pace, both goals in turn being placed in jeopardy, until within ten minutes of time, when the Somerset men gradually worked to near the home line, and E. Hancock succeeded in registering a try, which S. Escott converted into the premier point.

With a goal against them the home team played in splendid fashion, and once Bagwell and Coates dribbled to within a few yards of their opponents' citadel, but Winter fell on the ball and prevented further progress. Gloucester[*sic*] were unable to equalise the score, and had to retire beaten by a goal and minor to *nil*.

Although defeated the point scored against them was the result of a misunderstanding on the part of the home team, as they were appealing to the umpire for a pass forward when Hancock planted the ball behind the goal posts.

Gloucestershire had by no means the worst of the game, and in some respects were far superior to their burly opponents, especially in activity in forming scrimmages and preventing rushes.

The following were the players : –

Gloucestershire : A. F. Hughes (Gloucester), back; G. Coates, T. Bagwell, and C. E. Brown (Gloucester), three-quarter backs; W. George and S. A. Ball (Gloucester), half-backs; A. Cromwell, G. Witcomb, T. Collins, W. Taylor, R. C. Jenkins (Gloucester), F. M. May, R. Edwards (Clifton), J. Faulkener (R. A. College, Cirencester), and S. W. Brown (Bristol), forwards.

Somersetshire : C. E. Winter, back; S. Escott, F. C. Duckworth, and C. J. B. Money Penny, three-quarter backs; R. Escott and F. H. Fox, half-backs; J. E. Aldridge, H. T. Gillmore, P. F. Hancock, E. Hancock, W. H. Mansfield, R. M. P. Parsons, F. Soanes, C. J. Vernon, and Hancock, forwards.

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