

# GLOUCESTER JOURNAL

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## *The Week's Sport.*

- The Midland Counties on Wednesday, at Coventry, earned for themselves the position of champions of the South-Western group in the contest for the Rugby County Championship of England. They had previously beaten Devonshire and Somersetshire, and on Wednesday they beat the Gloucestershire combination by a goal and two tries to nothing. By their victory they will be called on to play Kent for the Championship of the South, and in the event of their further success they would then be opposed to the invincible Yorkshire fifteen for the Rugby supremacy of England.

On Wednesday neither side was fully representative, several of the best-known players being absent. Still the teams were well matched, and with the powerful Gloucester City contingent at their command it was generally expected that the Western county would prove successful. The result, however, proved otherwise, and the score of a goal and two tries in favour of the Midlands about indicates how the play went.

The Midland forwards generally held the upper hand, and in the scrums particularly had much the best of the exchanges. Evershed, J. H. Rogers, Gorton, Lycett, Marris, and Rice were perhaps the most conspicuous of an evenly-balanced lot, whilst on the other side Witcombe, Healing, and Cromwell were best.

Outside the Gloucester three-quarters were not nearly so clever and dangerous as usual, a fact to be accounted for by the quick following up and tackling of the Midland forwards. Jackson and Fenner, however, played strongly. Ball was the better of the "halves," whilst Hughes at full back played a wonderfully safe game.

On the Midland side, Nicol and Rotherham both defended well, and kept the three-quarters nicely employed, the Old Edwardian particularly distinguishing himself. Badger was remarkably clever, his two tries being the result of very pretty and smart work, in which he was ably supported by A. Rogers and Marsden. McKechnie tackled fairly well when called upon, but his kicking was dreadfully weak.

The teams were as follows : –

Gloucestershire. – A. F. Hughes (Gloucester), back; T. Bagwell (captain), C. E. Brown, W. Jackson (Gloucester), and E. Fenner (Bristol), three-quarter backs; S. A. Ball (Gloucester) and T. Pearce (Bristol), half-backs; G. J. Witcombe, A. E. Healing, A. Cromwell, A. E. Henshaw, R. C. Jenkins, J. Williams (Gloucester), W. Thomson (Bristol), and A. Whitley (R.A.C.), forwards.

Midland Counties. – A. McKechnie (Leicester), back; A. R. Badger (Old Edwardians), A. Rogers (Moseley), and G. A. Marsden (Burton), three-quarter backs; A. Rotherham (Coventry) and W. P. Nicol (Old Edwardians), half-backs; F. Evershed, A. W. Gorton (Burton), J. H. Rogers, E. R. Lycett, W. D. Ludlow, T. Horton (Moseley), W. A. Marris, S. H. Fisher (Old Edwardians), and W. Rice (Coventry), forwards.