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Transcribed by Malc King

### **Gloucestershire v Somerset**

*The match between Gloucestershire and Somersetshire, which was played at Kingsholm on Saturday, attracted a larger number of spectators than I can remember to have seen at any county match played in the city before, and the widespread interest taken in the event was evident from the fact that among the large number which passed the turn stiles were contingents from all parts of this and the adjoining county. It has been stated that the match was so attractive to the members of the Cinderford club that they journeyed to Gloucester instead of staying at home to keep their engagement with Dursley. I don't know whether this is so or not, but I know a great number came in on the chance of witnessing a stiff tussle and were duly rewarded. True, the game would have been more interesting if more open, but it wasn't, and there's an end on't.*

*Gloucestershire were first favourites before the teams took the field, but when they faced each other I am rather inclined to think that many of the most ardent supporters of the home team felt slightly shaky as to their chances against the powerfully built set of forwards which had filed out for Somerset. The home pack looked nowhere with them for weight, but as the result proved, were able to hold their own. The game was started by the visitors who by fast forward play took the leather into the home twenty-five, where, however, it was destined to remain but a few seconds before being transferred to the Somerset quarters. And these backward and forward rushes, varied by lines out and scrums, were continued throughout, individual players on both sides getting near a score several times, but always being brought down before they could accomplish the trick. So repeatedly and rapidly did the ball travel up and down the field that the touch judges and referee were kept continually on the trot, which, considering the state of the weather, was an advantage – to them.*

*In the first part of the concluding half Somerset, with the wind in their favour, penned Gloucester in their 25, solely by the superior weight of their forwards, but the home team gradually worked it back to the centre, and some neat passing between the backs nearly enabled Bagwell to get over. He was brought down, however, and a scrum was shortly afterwards formed within a yard of the Somerset line, where it remained until the call of no side, a stubbornly-contested game thus ending in a draw.*

*The home county played uniformly well; Hughes was undoubtedly the best kick on the field, and the halves, when they had the opportunity, playing a very tricky and clever game. "Baby" Hancocks was always able to gain an advantage for his side from the lines out, and was at times rather dangerous – especially when he fell on his opponents, as he did once on Sammy Hall.*