

GLOUCESTER JOURNAL

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The Week's Sport.

The first match in connection with the South Western group of the county championship was decided at Bristol on Saturday, when Somerset registered a very lucky win over the representatives of Gloucestershire by a dropped goal to nil. The victory was lucky in every sense of the word, as Gloucestershire had considerably the best of matters almost throughout the whole encounter, and should have scored at least three or four times.

The game was played under the most unfavourable conditions; the ground, owing to heavy rain, being in places under water. This greatly militated against anything like a correct exhibition of football being given, which was unfortunate, considering the importance of the fixture.

Neither county was fully represented, but two fairly good fifteens did duty. The game, despite the wretched conditions, was made very fast from the commencement, but the greasy state of the leather spoiled any back play. Gloucestershire opened well, and the forwards out-manœuvred the heavy Somerset pack. Several times the home county got dangerously near to their opponents' line, but their efforts to score were not rewarded.

Then Somerset had a look in, and from a reckless flying kick by Bartlett Louis Chard secured and dropped a good goal. This was all the scoring in the first.

Changing over Gloucestershire pressed the visitors severely, but they could not succeed in crossing the line, and eventually had to retire beaten by four points to nil.

Bartlett's poor display at full back for the losers was unaccountable. He played very indifferently throughout the whole match, and apparently could do nothing right. Whitehead (Lydney) fully justified his selection at centre three-quarter, but his partner Haines was found wanting at times. Taylor and Fenner had little chance to distinguish themselves, but the Gloucester player frequently gained ground by clever punts. Little fault could be found with the halves, Pearce and Lias, and nothing but praise can be awarded the forwards, all of whom played a fine game.

There was little to choose between the Somerset three-quarters, but C. Chard got through more work at half than his partner. Rogerson proved a safe custodian, and of the forwards Soane, Vernon, Ebdon, and Gillmore were the most conspicuous in the loose, but the International seldom got into the scrum.