

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

DECEMBER 7, 1895.

## FOOTBALL NOTES.

Gloucestershire entertained Devonshire at Kingsholm on Saturday in the South-Western Championship group, with the result that they were defeated by eighteen points to five.

In the first half the game was of a very even character, in which the home county had slightly the best of the play, thanks to the splendid manner in which the forwards worked. The half-backs, too, gave a good display, and time after time they got the ball away from the scrums with great alacrity. It was in the third line where Gloucester[sic] were beaten, and it was owing to their inability to utilise the chances offered that prevented them from scoring on several occasions.

It was only by spasmodic bursts that they gave anything like a proper display, but these bursts soon died away, and the second half saw the Devonians attack in such a manner that the home team were almost entirely kept on the defensive.

The Gloucestershire forwards were not to blame for the defeat. They played an exceptionally fine game throughout; they worked hard, and heeled out with accuracy, while in the open they infused plenty of dash into the game.

Considering that Stout has only been playing Rugby football this season, and the rapid strides which he has made, his display on Saturday clearly showed that he fully justified his place in the County team. The dribble which he made from the half-way line was a brilliant effort, and deserved better luck. It was one of the most brilliant bits of play of the whole match.

Leighton, Wale, Bowley, and Hall were also conspicuous, and rendered invaluable service to their side. The visiting forwards were particularly fast and quick, and they never lost an opportunity of following up any advantage which they gained.

At half-back Stephens and James were equally as clever as Down and Nicholay. They combined splendidly, and so well did they work the scrums that they gave plenty of opportunities to the three-quarters, which they failed to utilise.

Of the third line little need be said; they were deplorably weak, and showed little combination. Taylor appeared to be completely off-colour, but it must be admitted that he was greatly neglected by the centres.

Searle played a good game, as did also Smith, but they displayed a lamentable weakness both in defence and attack. It is questionable whether both Stephens and James might not have done much better had they stuck to the ball instead of passing it back to the centres. Smithson, as goal-keeper, gave a capital display, his fielding and kicking being quick and well judged.

Next Saturday Gloucestershire will play Cornwall, at Falmouth, for the possession of the wooden spoon, and judging from the form exhibited by Cornwall against Somerset last Saturday, when they only lost by a goal to nothing, there is just a possibility of their defeating Gloucestershire.

- On Wednesday, December 18th, Mr. Gleave, of Gloucester, will take a Rugby team to Cardiff, where they will meet the Cardiff Harlequins. The team, which will be known as the London and Western Wanderers, will be a strong one, and will comprise one International player, besides several Gloucester county men. It is to be hoped that the venture will be a success.

