

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

NOVEMBER 12, 1898.

## FOOTBALL ITEMS.

Commenting on the county match, Gloucestershire v. Cornwall, at Bristol, which resulted in a win for the home county by two goals and two tries to a penalty goal, the "Western Daily Press" says "... the play was not up to the average, and the Gloucestershire team were distinctly lucky in winning by so large a margin. The home forwards fell far below the form expected of them, and the backs were only seen to real advantage at rare intervals. Barton, at half, proved a very ineffectual partner for Needs, and the presence of W. Taylor, of Gloucester, on the wing was sadly needed.

As far as the balance of play is concerned, Cornwall was quite as prominent as the home fifteen; the visiting forwards played with great dash and determination, and Montero's play was quite the feature of the match."

"On the Gloucestershire side (remarks the "Bristol Mercury") the most prominent man was Percy Stout, and that is equivalent to saying he was the best player on the field. His fielding and touch kicking were brilliant. He had the biggest share of the work on the three-quarter line, and was less troubled by the slippery state of the ground than his colleagues, although it deprived him at one point of what seemed bound to be a certain try."

"The Bristol Times and Mirror" says : – "Up to half time there was practically nothing to choose between the teams, for while the home three-quarters were stronger than their opponents, the visiting forwards showed more resource and cleverness in the scrums. Montero, who worked the scrums, was frequently applauded for the manner in which he fed his three-quarters, and it was well for Gloucestershire, under these circumstances that the defence proved so sound.

This style of play was eminently suited to bring out the sterling qualities of Percy Stout, and the two Rugby Union officials who acted as touch-judges could not have failed to notice how time after time he cleared his lines with unerring kicks into touch.

Of his colleagues, Parsons played a hard game, and Hailing was fast, but he was an example of the axiom 'he who hesitates is lost.' It was a pity Baker was so neglected. Barton at half, as we expected, did not prove a capable colleague to Needs. He was rather slow, and held the ball too long. There was a lack of cohesion among the home eight, and their heeling at first was very slovenly.

The best men were Jarman, Frank Stout, and Percy Smith. The lesson of the match is that better work will have to be done by the Gloucestershire forwards if they are going to win the Devon match on Saturday week."

The County Selection Committee have picked the following team to play Devon on November 19th, at Exeter : –

J. Oates (Bristol), back; Percy Stout (Gloucester), Gwyn Nicholls (Cardiff), A. F. Healing (Cheltenham), and R. G. Parsons (Bristol), three-quarters; W. Needs (Bristol), and G. Barton (Cinderford), half-backs; F. M. Stout, C. Hall, F. Goulding, and B. L. Watkins (Gloucester), J. W. Jarman, M. G. Courtenay (Bristol), W. Leighton (Cinderford), and P. Smith (Stroud), forwards. – J. Lewis (Gloucester) is first reserve forward.

With the exception that Gwyn Nicholls comes in at three-quarter *vice* Baker (Clifton), and C. Hall (Gloucester) instead of his clubmate Lewis, the team is the same which defeated Cornwall.