

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

NOVEMBER 11, 1899.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP.

CORNWALL v. GLOUCESTERSHIRE. — Cornwall, who have been beaten by Devon, met Gloucestershire at Camborne. Unfortunately the weather was extremely bad, and the play necessarily suffered. Collins and Halifax were in the home side in place of Lawry and Smith, while Jarman could not assist the visitors, Watkins taking his place.

For some time Gloucestershire had the best of matters, but were gradually driven back. However, a spirited attack ended in Hailing running in for them, and Taylor took the place-kick successfully. Cornwall played up unexpectedly well, and Sherwell obtained a try for them. No goal resulted, and at half-time Gloucestershire led by one goal to 1 try.

The second half, which was mostly confined to the forwards, was marked by an unseemly quarrel between a player on each side, and both were ordered off the field.

Gloucestershire pressed hard for a while, but in turn had to act on the defensive, and generally speaking, the play was even. Neither side succeeded in scoring, and so Gloucestershire were left with a victory by 1 goal to 1 try.

Gloucestershire just managed to come through their county championship match successfully, and that was all. After the extremely favourable impression made by the team which was selected, a victory over Cornwall by something more than a goal to a try was expected.

It was not (says the "Times and Mirror") all the fault of the weather, however, that the margin between the teams was so meagre, for the home side astonished their supporters quite as much as their antagonists

by the form they showed. The Cornishmen have always been noted for their pluck and determination, but on this occasion they exhibited something more – a wonderful capacity to adapt themselves to a set of conditions which quite non-plussed their opponents.

Save that the Gloucestershire forwards were a trifle smarter in the open, there was little to choose between the packs. As for the backs, they had no chance to shine, except in defence, and there the visitors were decidedly good.

Commenting on the Gloucestershire v. Cornwall match, the "Athletic News" says:– A game played under such unfavourable conditions calls for very little criticism, as the players were unable to exhibit their true form through no fault of their own.

The Gloucester pack had the best of the close scrummages – a point that would probably have had a great effect on the result had the ground been dry. Hall, Stout, and Courtenay were best of a splendid lot.

Ordinary back play was at a discount. Needs played cleverly, and made the best of a bad job, but he and Goddard as a pair, were beaten by Thomas and Davy, who were exceedingly smart. Hailing and Taylor did a lot of good work, Parsons being unable to field the ball. Oates shaped better than Jackett at full back.

The players ordered off the field were F. Oswell (Gloucester) and O. Triggs (Penzance).