EDITORIAL SECTION

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SPECIAL FEATURES

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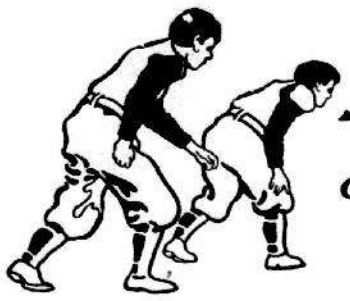


FOOTBALL from the INSIDE

A. Y. H.

A "Fumbled" Ball

A Run Around the End

"Bucking" the Line

Fighting for Inches

Ball is "Down" On a Failure to Break through the Line

WITH the opening of the collegiate and scholastic year all over the country the football hero comes into his own again. Ere the leaves have begun to turn he is out on the gridiron striving mightily to get into condition for the gruelling he knows he will receive later in the season, when his team is battling mercilessly with an opponent and every ounce of strength is required to advance the ball even a yard.

The average spectator at a football game sees nothing but the struggle, the glamor and the final victory of one of the "elevens"—and that through a haze of excitement and partisanship. He knows nothing of the other side of football. He knows only that there are two rival teams, and that one is better and, therefore, it wins. Concerning the inside reasons why the victor won he is blissfully ignorant. Least of all has he any knowledge of the vast amount of labor involved in forming a college team and whipping it into shape and a victorious eleven.

The beginning of the football season is an anxious time each year in the colleges. What kind of a team will they have? Is the new material good enough to compensate for the loss of the old by graduation? Will they be able to put out a winner?

There are three sources from which to choose the players—the men who played on the team the previous year, freshmen with high school or preparatory school experience and freshmen who have had no experience at all, but are willing to "try for the team."

The first mentioned are practically unknown. The coaches are familiar with their ability and their shortcomings, but, as a result of their summer vacation, they are not in "condition" and must demonstrate their right to play their old positions again.

The candidates for the team, who have had experience in preparatory schools, are also known quantities to a certain extent. Their work on the gridiron in past seasons has been carefully watched, and when they appear on the varsity field for the first time the coaches have already gauged their ability and classed them accordingly. But they are not allowed to think for a minute even that they have been watched. This is especially true if a player happens to have been a star in his minor firmament. In such a case he is treated with more than ordinary indifference.

For several days he is apt to be abused and humiliated at every turn. Good work on his part receives no more enthusiastic praise than an unwilling grunt that seems to imply he might have done better. But let him make a blunder. Right then and there he is given a thorough "calling down." It may even be implied, in the course of the coach's remarks that the player in question was cut out for pinochle or "pussy-wants-a-corner" rather than for football. This sort of treatment is apt to cause a shrinkage in the largest of "swelled heads."

With the man who has had no experience, however, an entirely different course is pursued. Primarily he is noticed because of his size, strength and probable agility. Most coaches claim that a "born football man" can be spotted in a minute by his appearance. He is urged to "come out for the team." The captain himself, and perhaps the coach, drops in to see him and talk it over and instill in him a bit of "school spirit." Finally persuaded, he is fitted out with a uniform and makes his appearance on the field.

The rules of the game are explained to him simply, omitting many of the finer points. For days and days the coach drills him in the mere rudiments of the game. If he learns quickly and shows an aptitude for the game, he is advanced in proportion to his knowledge, and may even eventually be given a place on the team. Should he be slow, he is kept at work and encouraged to do his best. Every good play he makes is praised and his drooping spirits are bolstered up at every turn. While he may not attain a place on the "scrubs" even this year, the coaches argue that he has three more years in college, and there is always the possibility of his developing into a varsity star. Even if this does not happen until his last year the coaches consider their labor in training him a thousandfold repaid. If he does no better than play on the "scrubs"—the second team—during the whole of his college career, the game is well worth the candle, for players on the lowly "scrubs" must possess some merit or the varsity team gains but little in practicing against them.

The coach is really the power behind the throne in intercollegiate athletics, though few persons realize the importance and the amount of work which devolves upon him. He must first instill the principles and fine points of the game in the men, and teach them the score or more strategic plays used by the team in past years and the new ones he himself involves. He must choose the 11 men whom he thinks best fitted to defend the honor of the college on the gridiron. If they win, he is lauded to the skies; if they lose, his shoulders must bear the bulk of the criticism. He must also choose the "scrub" eleven each day and hurl them against the "varsity" at its weakest points, in order to strengthen the latter by "showing them up." His work is hard work, and upon his handling of the men themselves depends much of his success. A good coach commands a handsome salary, but he holds his job only so long as he produces a winning team.

The first day's practice proper begins with the opening of the college or university. Every new man is urged to come out and try for the team, by word of mouth and notices put up on the college bulletin board. That afternoon, in all probability, the candidates assemble in the college gymnasium, where the coach and captain make speeches, in which they relate the past glories of the teams that have represented the old college on the football field, and urge the new men to emulate them. After firing them with college spirit they are told that uniforms await them in the locker rooms. A wild rush follows to fit themselves out from the conglomeration of discarded uniforms of other years.

As each man dons his "clothes" he rushes out to the field, where the coach with his assistants is waiting. The coach takes a football, stands off a few yards from the green candidate, rolls it along the ground toward him and tells him to "fall on it." Nine times out of ten the green man flops down on the ball—only to discover to his chagrin that it has bounded away from him. He is shown how to fall on it—and hold it—a by no means easy feat. It is rolled toward him, away from him, at every conceivable angle, and then ahead of him, so that he must run after it before falling upon it. During the entire process he is given one oft-repeated admonition, "Keep your eye on the ball!" The entire afternoon, and a portion of every other afternoon the entire season, is devoted to this essential feature of the training.

This fundamental point must be mastered. A man who retrieves a ball fumbled by some other side often turns defeat into victory for his own team. The coaches explain this to the candidates, and insist that they read, mark, learn and inwardly digest it. At the close of the first day's practice everybody jogs around the running track, which generally incloses the gridiron, and gets "heated" for the cold shower that follows.

The second days' work seems a trifle more like the real article. The falling-on-the-ball stunt is resumed, and those who were awkward about it the day before are kept at it. The ball is tossed or "passed" in the air from one man to the next in order that they may learn how to catch, or "handle" it cleanly. Then the candidate for the "back field," or "end," position are coached, especially in catching "punts," balls kicked by other men further down the field. They are taught to "start" quickly from a stooping, stationary posture in order to develop their speed and agility. The best "backs," "quarterbacks" and "ends" are the fastest, and they must be able to start from any position at full speed.

The men trying for the positions in the line—guard, center and tackle—are lined up against each other and shown how to charge against an opponent and how to repel his charge. The men are worked in squads, each opposed to the other, and the coaches watch anxiously for the display of unexpected aptitude in this respect on the part of any one. The center man in one of the opposing lines "snaps back" the ball which he holds on the ground between his legs. Every man in both lines immediately changes his opponent. All then are urged to keep their eyes on the ball and charge the precise second it is snapped back.

The struggle lasts but a minute, each man doing his level best to dislodge or "break through" his opponents by pushing or butting him out of the way; he cannot seize him and hold him, but can use his shoulders, elbows and arms—except the hands. The coaches instruct the candidates how to accomplish this without holding and criticise them for bad work. The essentials impressed upon the men are speed and low charging, while a fellow who hesitates about hurling himself against his opponent when the ball is snapped is warned to get rid of his "yellow streak" or get off the field.

The candidates who have survived the charging period are next introduced to the "dummy" or tackling machine. This consists of a stuffed football suit made in the semblance of a man, minus head and feet, of course. It is suspended between two staunch uprights, deeply set in the ground, and hangs the weight of a man from a trolley between uprights. It can be drawn along rapidly or slowly to represent a man running.

An experienced player stands back a half dozen yards from the dummy, runs to it at full speed, throws himself at it head-first and "tackles" it as in the game when an opponent is running with the ball. If in his tackle he hits the dummy hard enough, and holds on, a spring release unhooks the dummy from the trolley and down to the earth it comes with a crash. If, as described, the player throws the dummy, well and good. If not, the coaches tell him what a weakling he is and send him back for another try.

Tackling a dummy is no parlor trick, as it is heavy, the earth is hard and the momentum of the player himself is great. If the enthusiasm of the candidates lags a jersey and "letter" in colors of the college's most bitter rival are sometimes fitted on the dummy and the played told to show what he would do to it should it be a real rival instead of a dummy.

A week of this sort of training has gotten the men into fairly good condition and allowed the coaches to make a tentative selection of players for the "scrimmage" practice between the first and second squads. From each a team is picked each afternoon and a regular football game is begun. Every man of any promise is given a chance to get in the game on one squad team or the other. The "lineup" is changed constantly, men being tried in several different positions before being weeded out as not worth further development. In a comparatively short time the coaches have two teams of picked men with substitutes for every position on both of them.

By this time the training table is in full swing. The candidates eat their meals together, where their diet is carefully watched by the coaches and trainers. They may have as much wholesome food, calculated to build brawn and increase their weight, as they want, but desserts, sweets, pastries, etc., are barred.

Soon the day for the first game of the season rolls around. The manager of the team, elected by the players the previous season, has arranged his schedule with other colleges so that his team plays the weaker opponents first, gradually working up as the season progresses, until the most hated rival is played at the end of the schedule when the team is logically in its best form.

As the first game is generally an assured victory, the coaches are enabled to shift their players around, trying several men in each position, and thus get a line on the work of each under fire. The strength and weakness of the team as a working unit is determined and steps are taken to remedy the defects in practice the following week. If the team fumbles the ball repeatedly it is certain the next day's practice will be devoted to passing and falling on the ball. If a certain position is shown to be weak in the game the coaches in the ensuing practice direct especial attention to the player or players who occupied that position.

At some time during the season a falling off in the condition and ability of the players is noticeable. This is called a "slump" and is due to the natural reaction from a period of unaccustomed, rigorous training. Such a state of affairs is the bane of existence of every coach in the business. It is a critical time—and fortunate is the team that experiences its "slump" early in the season.

At last the great day—the day of the contest with the star rival—is at hand. The players are sent to bed early and instructed to forget all about the game until early tomorrow. They go to bed, but forgetting and not worrying and wondering who will win is another matter. Only the most experienced players are free from nervousness—and even they are by no means immune.

The trainer has personally examined every man and done everything in his power to put him in fit condition. The coaches have finished their work, except for the field instructions in the game itself, of course. It is up to the men. If they win, they are heroes; if they lose no one feels the sting of defeat more keenly than they do.

At noon a light lunch only is eaten. Everyone is on the qui vive. The picked men are going over in their minds the last instructions of the coaches, point by point, and wondering if they will be equal to their tasks. The substitutes are hoping and praying that they will have a chance to get in the game.

Just before the game, in the dressing rooms, when the men have donned their habiliments of battle, the coach makes a final speech appealing to their college patriotism and reviews his most important instructions; the quarterback runs over a number of signals with the backs, and the manager and trainer are flying hither and yon attending to last details.

Finally, at a signal, they file out on the field, pass the ball around, while the captains toss for goal and possession of the ball. Then they line up, the whistle sounds and the great game is on.

Then follows the execution or failure to execute the many esoteric points the spectators do not see. A season's work is being tested. The gains and losses, the mistakes and successes, all exert two influences—encouragement for the fortunate players, despair for the losers. Up and down the field the battle wages, the coaches ever on the alert to substitute new players and proffer advice and instruction in the intermission between the halves. In the end the best team wins and the football season is brought to a close with joy for one and sorrow for the other.

There are several changes in the rules this season that are well worth repeating. A goal from the field now counts three instead of four, as last year. The forward pass remains unchanged, the only alteration being that the rules now make it clear that there is a zone, lying behind the scrimmage line, in which an end may stand, and by assuming this position be not eligible in any event to receive a forward pass. This position is more than one foot back of the line of scrimmage, but less than a yard.

One of the most important changes is that a side having a "kick out" may have the option of taking the kick or having the ball down for a scrimmage on its 25-yard line. In this way a team that has been forced to make a touchback has a chance of pulling out of its predicament. Formerly they were forced to kick the ball out to their opponents. The referee must not blow his whistle this year to indicate a foul, as any blast of the whistle indicates that the ball is dead. The referee must also stand behind the line of the offense.

Turks Honor the Pope

TURKISH AMBASSADOR AND ATTACHE AT THE COURT OF THE POPE IN ROME

Rome, Oct. 16.—The presence in the vatican of Turkish ambassadors representing the Mohammedan faith, is a striking one. Never did two religions differe more widely. Centuries of warfare between the two religions and races mark the history of the Mohammedan faith, and yet in an official way the Mohammedans pay homage to the Christians. This picture, taken exclusively for this paper, represents the new ambassadors presenting their credentials at Rome and shows them approaching the center of the Roman Catholic religion.

BID O'CONNOR FAREWELL.

London, Oct. 16.—There was a large gathering of Irish home rule advocates at the Austin station when T. P. O'Connor took the train for Liverpool, from whence he sails today for America. O'Connor goes to raise a fund for the Irish cause.

MUST BE OPERATED UPON.

New York, Oct. 16.—Ossip Gabrilowitch, the Russian pianist, who recently married Miss Clara Clemens, daughter of Mark Twain, will, on Monday, undergo an operation for appendicitis. The couple was to have sailed for Europe today.

KIDNAPED CHILDREN RESTORED TO FATHER

Chicago, Oct. 16.—Tomaso and Grace Vivano, the children kidnaped last August from their home at St. Louis and recovered here Thursday while wandering about the streets, spent a quiet night at the Passavant hospital. Little could be learned from them regarding the kidnaping. The boy spoke of being in a wagon drawn by two horses, and declared that the driver was a fine man, who had given Grace a chain.

The children were again clasped in their father's arms today. Both parents assert that they would bend every energy to run down the kidnapers, of whom there are believed to have been several in the plot.

The children are believed to have been brutally treated.

CALLS THEM LIARS.

Rome, Oct. 16.—Despite minor acts of lawlessness during the night the city is calm. Corriere Italia, organ of the vatican, commenting on the recent agitation, says today the organizers of the disturbances were liars when they said that the execution of Ferrer was due to the influence of the church.

A JOY VOYAGE.

San Francisco, Oct. 16.—The British sloop of war, Algerne, sister ship of the Shearwater, arrived here today to participate in the festivities of Portola week.

BANK CLOSES DOORS.

Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 16.—The City Bank & Trust company, of this city, closed its doors this morning for the purpose of liquidation.

A FAMOUS BRITON.

MOBERLY BELL

Managing Editor of the London Times.

Moberly Bell, who is now visiting America in company with Lord Northcliffe and party, is a most remarkable man. A man who has made himself an international figure in the newspaper field through his success as managing editor of the London Times.

GUILTY OF MURDER.

St. Louis, Oct. 16.—Thomas Kane was found guilty of murder in the second degree by a jury here today. He killed Ferd Mohrle in the corridor of the Four Courts building June 7. Mohrle having killed Samuel Young, a political leader of whom Kane was a follower, last April. The jury recommended that Kane's punishment be fixed at 12 years at the penitentiary.

COMMUNION SERVICE IN PITTSBURG TODAY

Pittsburg, Oct. 16.—The greatest communion service ever held in the world's history will take place here tomorrow, and it is expected that 75,000 Disciples of Christ and members of other Christian denominations will assemble in Forbes field baseball park.

Special trains will be run from many cities and towns.

The arrangements for the communion services will be carried out by thousands of the attendants at the centennial convention of the disciples. Hundreds of police will maintain order. Every participant will register so that the exact number of those receiving communion will be known.

CAR IS DEMOLISHED.

New York, Oct. 16.—The Bander car No. 8, in the 24-hour race at Brighton Beach, was practically demolished at 7 a. m. today when it skidded on a curve, shot through the inner rail and turned three somersaults.

Charles Bowers, its driver, and J. Mauze, the mechanician, suffered severe scalp wounds.

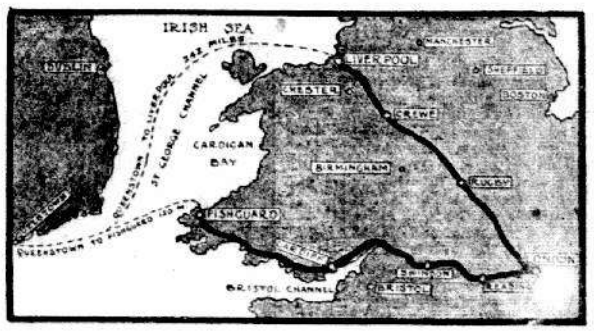
MANSLAUGHTER CHARGED.

Detroit, Mich., Oct. 16.—Upon statements made by Chauffeur Joseph W. Leach, a warrant was issued today charging Dr. George Frith with manslaughter in connection with the death of Miss Maybelle Millman.

SIX BOMBS EXPLODED.

Cerbere, France, Oct. 16.—Private advices from Barcelona state that six bombs were exploded in different parts of that city during the night, and that several persons were wounded.

Short Cut to London



Map showing the new route via Fishguard, which will materially reduce the commercial activities of Liverpool and will shorten the transatlantic voyage by at least three hours.

London, Oct. 16.—Not satisfied with having smashed all transatlantic records, the Mauretania and Lusitania now dock at Fishguard, a small harbor in direct line from Queenstown to London, and thereby save for the traveler some three hours in going to London. This will eventually bring Paris well within five days from New York.

Twenty-five million dollars or more are to be spent in improving the harbor and the result will be far-reaching. It means that eventually Fishguard, which is at present only a small village, will be the terminal of all passenger and freight traffic rather than Liverpool or London. Through express trains will connect with Dover where fast ships will convey the passengers to the continent. Paris will then be only five days distant from New York.

WRECKAGE DRIFTING IN.

New Haven, England, Oct. 16.—One boat and a portion of another boat belonging to the British bark Holthill, Captain Holderstone, from Hamburg, October 10, for San Francisco, were washed ashore at different points on the Sussex coast today. The Holthill was last reported as passing Beachy Head on October 11.

UNCLE SAM WILL KNOW.

New York, Oct. 16.—Conditions in the tobacco growing districts of Kentucky will be brought to the attention of the United States, said E. O. Eshelby of Cincinnati, here today. Mr. Eshelby is publisher of the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune, and one of the leaders of the independent tobacco manufacturers.