

PERIL OF FOOTBALL

GAME NOT SO DANGEROUS AS PAINTED.

Many Fatal Injuries Charged to Sport Without Just Cause.

CORRECTED FIGURES OF FOOTBALL FATALITIES.

Table with 2 columns: Cause, Number of deaths. Includes rows for 'Total deaths attributed to game', 'Death due to football', 'Death due to injuries in unorganized games', etc.

It is generally agreed that the loss of even one life in football is a most deplorable occurrence and one to be guarded against by every device in the discretion of those on whom falls the responsibility of making the rules of the game.

When it is said, as was the case at the meeting of the New York Board of Education which voted for the abolition of the game, that the sport had cost twenty-six lives this year, a misstatement was made. Yet this statement was based on figures collected and tabulated with great care by "The Chicago Tribune."

The tabulated statement indicates that football cost twenty-six lives this year. However, the figures are based on a misstatement of the facts. The figures are based on a misstatement of the facts.

Thus fifteen deaths remain to be studied as having possibly been due to football as played this year. Of these, four were of boys engaged in games played by unorganized teams. Such players seldom follow any of the rules of the game.

Two college players, then, have been fatally injured. Nine boys at school playing on regular school teams, with more or less organization, must be added to the death roll. Two of these cases are in the institutions of pseudo-collegiate ranks.

These nine deaths are not fully authenticated. The Tribune has sent letters of inquiry to the principals of the schools involved, and full answers have been received in many cases. But, even so, no confirmation beyond the original dispatches chronicling the death is available in four cases, which are included in the table.

Five of these deaths have been proved to be due to football. Two of these victims are known to have been immature and hardly fitted to take part in so strenuous a game.

These facts are set forth calmly, and without any desire to attack the views of those opposed to the game as at present played. They are intended to be of service to those interested in a real revision, in order that the subject may be approached in a reasonable spirit, and without hysteria.

The fact is that the total authenticated death toll of fifteen, based upon the figures of "The Chicago Tribune," as revised, compares not unfavorably with the record of thirteen deaths in 1907 and fourteen in 1908 recorded by the same authority.

It is further in the nature of the fatalities statistics due to the game to be noted that the loss of smaller, for the most part, boys is shown to be due to a plain disregard of rules and precautions wholly inexcusable.

One of the school deaths was due to an injury to the neck received in an open field. Another was kicked in the abdomen unintentionally, although of necessity it was a matter of necessity to follow the rules and practically impossible of avoidance in a game between trained and skilful players.

Another player received cerebral injuries resulting in paralysis. This was Raymond Thurston, a student at Phillips-Exeter, and his injuries, although probably received in a game, did not manifest themselves until some days after the game. Another boy was killed a condition apparently due to a blow, which might have been sustained in football or in some other way. It is, of course, impossible, in view of the belated discovery of the affection, to determine what sort of play was responsible.

Edward Byrne, the West Point cadet, received his injuries in the course of a split tackle play by Harvard. His neck was twisted in some manner, and the fatal injury resulted. Pictures of plays previous to the fatal one, but of similar character, showed Byrne going into the play with his head up and in a dangerous position, not usually assumed by tackle players. The fact is that the injury was not inconsiderable detail, obtained wide publicity at the time of its occurrence.

Arthur Christian, as appears in the full and detailed statement which the courtesy of the University of Virginia enables "The Tribune" to publish here, was fatally hurt in an open field play, as was said at the time in a mass play.

FOR HIGH TACKLING

BOWYER ON FOOTBALL

Naval Academy's Head Would Abolish On-Side Kick.

Annapolis, Dec. 18.—Reports to the contrary notwithstanding, the naval officials are not even considering the abandonment of football.

It had been reported that owing to the accidents which caused the death of Cadet Byrne, of West Point, and the serious injury of Midshipman Wilson, these in authority at the Naval Academy might refuse to countenance the game in future, but such is by no means the case.

It will be recalled that it was a low flying tackle that fractured the neck of Midshipman Wilson, causing the paralysis.

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MAN WHO MAKES AUTOMOBILE RECORDS.

Strang Sets New Auto Mark

Dashes Over Motor Speedway at Indianapolis with Speed of Wind.

Indianapolis, Dec. 18.—The five-mile speed record for an automobile over an elliptical track was broken today by Lewis Strang, driving a five-horsepower Fiat car.

The timing machine caught the last mile of each lap. In the first lap this mile was done in 3.36 and in the second lap in 3.96.

In one of these miles a quarter was covered in 3.85, which is a new record for this distance.

Strang's brilliant performance so startled the officials of the track that they were disposed at first to discredit it.

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ARMY IN CLOSE GAME.

West Point Cadets Defeat Penn State at Basketball.

West Point, N. Y., Dec. 18.—In a game in which fine passing and floor work were marred by the poor shooting of both teams, the Army defeated Penn State at basketball here today by the score of 22 to 20.

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BOYS' HIGH VICTORS.

Defeat for Basketball Players of Far Rockaway.

The Boys' High School basketball team defeated Far Rockaway in a roughly played Public School Athletic League championship game at Avon Hall yesterday by a score of 36 to 29.

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CORNELL TOO MUCH FOR HOBART.

Ithaca, N. Y., Dec. 18.—Cornell defeated Hobart to-night at basketball by the score of 29 to 17.

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MIDDIES MAY PLAY CHICAGO.

Annapolis, Dec. 18.—The football eleven of the Naval Academy will, it is reported, take on the University of Chicago for a midseason game next fall.

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