"Native Sons" Make Good Ball Players

WHY INJURIES OCCUR IN FOOTBALL GAMES

Jeffries's Condition Food for Argument

JEFFRIES IS NOT SUCH A FAVORITE

Johnson Could Not Be Seen at First, but Time Changes Opinions.

PROMINENT TRAINERS PICK COLORED CHAMPION

All Say Jeff Has Been Out of Game Too Long to Come Back.

Tribune Special Sporting Service.

NEW YORK, Nov. 13.—Prominent sporting men, trainers and athletes all seem to think that Jeffries is foolish to fight again.

A noted athletic trainer says:

"It makes no difference whether a man is a runner, jumper, fighter, ball player or a participant in any other branch of sports, if he stops training for three or four years he can never regain his best form. In all my experience I have never seen an exception to this rule."

Taking his opinion as a basis for argument, there are many pugilistic experts who are figuring out just now whether James J. Jeffries can "come back" so that he will beat the negro, Jack Johnson, down and out. William A. Brady and William Delaney, former managers of Jeffries, have been insisting for many months that he is foolish to tackle Johnson and will suffer defeat. Murphy declares that Jeffries, having passed nearly five years in idleness, can never show the same speed and stamina that won for him the title of world's champion. Brady stated to the Sun man the night that Johnson and Jack O'Brien boxed six rounds in Philadelphia early last summer that Jeff's wind was gone and that even if the boilermaker reduced himself to 225 pounds, his best fighing weight, he would find it a physical impossibility to fight more than ten rounds at top speed with the formidable colored man. Delaney also declared at that time his belief that Jeffries would be an easy mark for such a clumsy young slugger as Kaufman, and wanted to bet $10,000 on the side if a match could be arranged between then.

Jeffries Is Confident.

"In spite of these opinions and predictions, however, Jeffries says he knows he can be the safe old champion once more and is telling his friends that he will beat Johnson easily. One of the oldest ring followers in this country, who is not prejudiced, but generally says what he thinks about pugilists and their doings, and who has seen Jeffries in all of his ring battles, talked in this interesting way the other night:

"There is no man who admires Jeffries more than I, so that I do not want to be accused of knocking. But, really, I feel convinced that if Jeffries and Johnson meet in the ring the negro will win. In the first place, Jeffries, while recognized as an unbeaten champion, is not a truly great fighter and I'll show you the reason. When Delaney first brought him to New York I was among those who met him at the Vanderbilt hotel directly after he had left the cars. It was a hot night and Jeff had on very thin clothing. When asked to get on the scales he tipped the beam at exactly 245 pounds. He was 28 years old then and was in robust health. He was pitted against Bob Armstrong, a big negro, in a ten round bout at the Lenox Athletic club in order to show New Yorkers what he could do, and when that affair was over Jeff was fairly laughed out of town. He was as slow as cold molasses, knew nothing about ring science and was actually outpointed by Armstrong, although the latter got the worst of the referee's decision.

Fitz Not in Shape.

"A year later Jeffries trained down to 210 pounds for the first battle with Fitzsimmons at Coney Island. It is a matter of record that Fitzsimmons received 65 per cent of the receipts, win or lose, and that he did not train at all. The fight to me was a frameup, for I never saw Fitzsimmons try once to land a blow on Jeff's head or jaw. Instead Robert bored in with body blows and was an easy mark for Jeff's heavy hooks and uppercuts. The second time they met, in California, it is an undeniable fact that Fitzsimmons was out to win. He broke Jeff's nose and hammered him on the head and jaw until Jim was literally cut to pieces. Fitz finally broke his knuckles, and after that he was punched out. But while he lasted he gave Jeff the worst beating he ever received.

"Take Jeff's fight with Sharkey at Coney Island as further proof that Jim is overrated. In that affair Jeffries stood flat-footed and let Sharkey do all the leading. Jim was forty pounds heavier than the sailor on that occasion, yet he never rushed at all. He was outpointed for nineteen rounds by Sharkey, but was satisfied to counter heavily in the ribs with his right hand whenever Thomas bored in. In the long run Jeff's superior weight and strength enabled him to beat Sharkey in terrible fashion, but when the referee gave the decision to Jeffries there was a great howl, for a majority of the spectators thought that Sharkey was entitled to a draw.

Giving Away Weight.

"Jeff was almost forty pounds heavier than Corbett when they hooked up at the island. For twenty rounds Corbett with his great leg work and science made Jeffries look like a novice. In that length of time Jeffries could not put a glove on him, and if Corbett had stayed away to the end of the twenty-fifth round he'd have won the fight on points beyond a question of doubt. But Corbett lost his head and tried to mix it up with the big fellow, who dropped him with a left hook on the point of the jaw. Jeff lacked aggressiveness in that fight, and also showed that he was not a past master in the science of boxing. He simply had a great wallop and was lucky enough to land it.

"When he runs up against Johnson, Jeffries will find that the negro, heavier and stronger than Corbett, Fitzsimmons and Sharkey, is one of the most scientific men the boilermaker has ever tackled. If Johnson takes his time, I believe he will wear Jim down, for he possesses a wonderful defense and is never in a hurry. As Johnson is not a rusher and wastes very few punches, how can Jeffries, with the old lack of aggressiveness, stop him quickly? I tell you that if the fight goes more than a dozen rounds Johnson will stand off and cut Jeff to pieces with his long left, and if Jeff comes boring in to close quarters the negro will knock his head off with the same terrific blow that put Ketchel out in a flash.

Johnson at Best.

"Johnson is in his prime, you must remember. He has been fighting steadily ever since he became a pugilist. He may be a high liver, but he is never far out of condition. He is three years younger than Jeffries and has never been extended. Furthermore, he has shown that he knows how to box and is a cracking good hitter. Jeffries on the other hand has been out of the ring for five years. He retired after he whipped Munroe and gave up all kinds of exercise. I saw him in Los Angeles last winter and he was as big as a house. He was taking life easy then and indulged his palate to the limit. He had a saloon, where he met convivial friends, and always entertained them royally. Jeff never dreamed that he would be asked to fight again and as a matter of fact he did not want to return to the ring at all. He has been forced into this fight by public clamor and he will be taking desperate chances."

Jeffries, according to associates in California, not only neglected physical exercise during his long layoff, but also drank steadily. He did not imbibe to excess, but at the same time he denied himself nothing. He did not refuse a glass of wine or a highball when invited to join his friends, neither did he refrain from treating them "on the house." Living in this manner Jeffries took on flesh, until a year ago, according to reliable information, he weighed nearly 300 pounds. He seldom indulged in running or long distance walks and went for months at a time without putting on the gloves. He was hog fat and short of wind when he began his "training" last March, and even his best friends did not believe that he could recover anything like his old form.

Careful Training.

Jeffries, however, went about the task of reducing himself in the proper way. He began daily exercises gradually. He changed his method of living radically. He cut out liquor, selected his meals carefully, got into the habit of sleeping nine hours each night and by means of limited road work and light exercise he managed to work off the fat slowly but surely. As he stands today Jeffries, as far as outward appearances go, looks as well trained and as rugged as in the days of conquest. He says he feels strong and able to stand a hard fight. In boxing with a partner he seems to step around with the same agility that made Corbett pronounce him "the fastest man of his weight and inches in the world." He seems to be able to punch with the old power and he certainly knows as much about ring tactics as he ever did.

But Jeffries will admit privately that his chief fault is a lack of wind. He appears to tire quickly after a few vigorous rounds and puffs like a grampus. Yet he says that when real hard training begins this defect will be easily remedied. He knows that Johnson's defense will prolong the fight and for that reason he says that he must have enough stamina to go the route with the negro. Jeff has a host of supporters who believe that he will "come back" and put Johnson away. One of them in predicting the outcome of the mill said recently:

Midget Fighter.

"Johnson has never beaten a first-class man. In Burns and Ketchel he beat a pair of midgets who are just good middleweights. When he meets Jeff he'll have a man before him in the ring who is taller and heavier, also stronger, a harder hitter and more game. Johnson will find it impossible to throw Jeff around in the clinches and to hurt him to any great extent with his punches. Jeff, on the other hand, can hit hard enough to put Johnson out in jig time, if he gets an opening. The boilermaker is not a fool, and if he thought for an instant that he could not whip Johnson he wouldn't fight him. Jeffries has taken his own time about reducing his bulk and he intends to do a lot of hard training before he enters the ring. He doesn't think much of Johnson, anyway, and is going ahead with perfect confidence. He is light enough now to fight any man. But it's his wind that is bothering him. A few months in the mountains of California will fix that all right, and then you'll see the same old Jeff, big and strong, with a punch that will put an end to this controversy.

Never Come Back.

"Looking back through sporting history one can find many instances of athletes who failed to 'come back.' John L. Sullivan, after beating Jake Kilrain, loafed for three years before meeting Corbett and then proved to be all in. Only a year ago Kid McCoy, after a long layoff, tried to 'come back' in a bout with Jim Stewart, a second rater, and was a pitiful failure. Tod Sloan, one of the greatest jockeys that ever lived, after remaining on the ground for several years, tried to ride for Edward Corrigan at New Orleans, but quickly found that he had lost his skill. Though Mike Donlin has not been idle for more than a year, Manager McGraw believes that he has lost his grip and can never be the Giant mainstay again. Joe Corbett, once a star pitcher in the National league, tried to shine once more in California last summer after several years' of idleness, but was quickly convinced that he had seen his best days. How many college football players on the gridiron this fall could quit the game for three years and then show the old prowess. It is the same thing with sprinters like Bernie Wefers, wrestlers like Hackenschmidt and oarsmen like Young Ten Eyck. They can never 'comeback. Will James J. Jeffries, however, prove an exception?"

—Detroit Free Press.

AUTOMOBILING

The summary of imports and exports for the month of August, and the eight months ending with August, issued by the department of commerce and labor, shows that the exports in motor cars have taken a wonderful upward turn. Such items as a 100 per cent increase in our exports to France, coupled with a 10.3 per cent decrease in our imports from that country, are particularly gratifying.

* * *

As outlined, the next Grand Prix will be the longest road race ever run, the distance being not less than 500 miles, all of which must be run in one day. The bars as to car size have been dropped also, and there will be no limitations. This practically means a return to the Bennett cup days.

* * *

Space in the tenth international automobile show, which opens in Grand Central Palace, New York, on New Year's eve, has been allotted to seventy-two makers of American and fifteen importers of foreign cars. Six other American makers are on the waiting list, making ninety-three automobile concerns in all. It is claimed that this is the largest number ever showing in New York.

* * *

Official figures recently published in England show very clearly the rapidity with which the motor-driven cabs are replacing horse-drawn vehicles in London. The figures show that there were 4939 hansom cabs in use in London on July 1, which was 1290 less than the number on July 1 of the previous year; of four-wheeled cabs there had been a decrease of 289 to a total of 1370, and the number of taxicabs had increased 1886 to a total of 3394. The passing away of the horse-drawn vehicles is thus strikingly shown, as the number of taxicabs had more than doubled in the twelve months that the horse-drawn vehicles were decreasing about 20 per cent.

* * *

There is much sense in the plea made in Engineering for wheels of larger diameter in motor cars. That small wheels have some advantages is undeniable; they are lighter, cheaper, put less strain on the axle; it is generally simpler to set the platform on the car with them, and it is easier to arrange the lock for the steering gear. On the other hand, there is much more vibration with small than with large wheels, owing to the unavoidable inequalities in roads, which is injurious to the mechanism, and increases greatly the cost of repairs, and besides, the concentration of loads on wheels of small diameter involves destruction of the road surface.

In the cases of certain classes of vehicles, such as omnibuses and wagons for freight, in which speed is of less importance than the capacity for a heavy load, and where comparatively little relief can be expected from improved tires save at great expense, the substitution of larger wheels seems only reasonable. The suggestion is also made that the call for great speed in pleasure cars, which marked the first introduction of the automobile to the public favor, is yielding to a more general demand for more durable and trustworthy machines and for reduced running expenses. Here again wheels of larger diameter would help.

More important, however, than any improvement in the motor cars themselves is the question of saving the roads. The destructive effect of the smaller tires is demonstrated by mathematics and mechanics, but the social difficulties are shown just as clearly. Motor cars are destroying the existing roads. The motorists on the one side demand that roads should be brought to a pitch of perfection that will allow them to run their cars at full speed with no harm to themselves; this Engineering maintains cannot be done, unless they are restricted to railroad tracks. On the other side, the taxpayers who pay for the maintenance of the roads object to their being destroyed by vehicles that are not suitable for them. One remedy proposed is the taxation of motor cars according to the diameter of the wheels, the smaller wheel paying the larger tax.

It would be better still to build motors fit to run on the roads as they are, and one step toward that object would be gained, according to Engineering, by increasing the diameter of the wheels. The cost would be very little compared with that of keeping the roads in good condition. It is a suggestion that is worth listening to.—New York Sun.

Pennsy Boxing Club.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 13.—A boxing club has been organized by the students of the University of Pennsylvania. At a meeting held the other day in the gym, over 300 students were present to join the newly-formed club. George Decker, a lightweight, has been engaged to instruct the men in the art of self-defense. During the meeting Decker and Jack O'Brien fought a short exhibition bout. While the men were in action they were cheered loudly by the students.

Tribune Want Ads.
Bell Main 5200. Independent 360.

CALIFORNIA LEADS IN BASEBALL MEN

State Develops More Major Leaguers Than Rest of the Union.

OVER HALF THE MEN SELECTED MAKE GOOD

Many Players Will Be Drafted by Eastern Teams the Coming Season.

Tribune Special Sporting Service.

NEW YORK, Nov. 13.—California is a .300 hitter when it comes to turning out good ball players. In addition to that, they have trotted out many a good fighter. Every year the Pacific Coast league springs no less than a dozen players on the major leagues, and it is surprising that half of that number deliver the goods. The majority of baseball managers consider themselves very fortunate if they get twenty-five men that have been touted as big league caliber and find two that develop into big league material. That the Pacific Coast league should have a medal pinned on every clubhouse door for turning out speedy men for the big tent, can be easily figured out, when such boys as Easterly, Oakes, Ellis, Heitmuller, Groom, Sutor, Madden and Gray advanced to the big league in one year. The California country has done this year after year and they are sending a lot of thirteen men out for trial in the National and American leagues that the baseball fans out in the Golden City don't expect to come back.

The scouts have cleaned up the California league of all the good material and the fans out there hoped that some of their favorites would be passed up. All the clubs in that league will lose popular players. The White Sox, under the leadership of Hughey Duffy, will get Zeider, whom the majority of fans convicted of winning the pennant for the Seals last season. Zeider, they say on the coast, was about the best thing they ever saw in the infield for all-around work.

Some Good Ones.

Browning, a pitcher who has been highly recommended, will go to the Detroit club and has been well boosted by Danny Long, who, by the way, said Chase was the goods. Browning will have Hughey Jennings to teach him a few things. Duffy Lewis of the Oakland club, an outfielder, and Boice, a pitcher, have been landed by the Boston club. Out in California they say that Lewis is a good outfielder and a good hitter. Boice, they say, will make good in the pitcher's box. Then there is Beall, the flychaser of the Los Angeles club, who will be given another trial with the White Sox.

Henry Berry has sold some good material so it is said Koestner and Hosp were two of his best pitchers. Koestner goes to the Cincinnati club and Hosp goes to Cleveland. The Los Angeles club has also a catcher who will go to the Chicago National League club. He is Orendorf, who has done some great work behind the platter. The Yankees will get Ole Johnson, a young fellow who is well touted and comes from the Portland club. He is an infielder and said to be a crack hitter.

Sacramento will graduate two players—Gandil, who will wear a White Sox uniform, and Hap Myers, who has been placed with the Boston Americans. Both are going with strong teams. Myers was pulled out of the state league late in the season and is a player of unquestioned ability. He got his start at the University of California. Myers and Gandil are the sluggers of the Sacramento club. Both are first basemen. The latter is a great fielder, having a wonderful arm. Vernon has already given Raleigh to the St. Louis National club. Next season it will send Vance to the Detroit club. This young pitcher was drafted and he has shown lots of ability.

Before the season opens other players may go up from this league. Henley, for one, may be sold. He is entitled to a chance to try his hand in faster company.

EXCURSIONS TO CHICAGO.
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PROPER PROTECTION IN FOOTBALL GAME

Remedy for Football Does Not Lie in Abolition of Mass Plays.

EAGER COACHES ARE BLAMED FOR DEATHS

Carelessness Causes Injured Players to Pass Unnoticed, With Fatal Results.

Tribune Special Sporting Service.

NEW YORK, Nov. 13.—The remedy for football does not lie in the abolition of mass plays as they are now executed, nor does suitable protection for young athletes necessitate the abolition of the game itself. There is nothing seriously the matter with the game as it is played today, but there is something seriously the matter with the chances eager coaches permit their players to take.

A capable official, with a medical training and with authority to remove from the game a man who is physically and mentally unfit to play longer should be on the field during every contest. A constant, close range observation of the men should be his only duty. He should be the safety valve for the ambitious and gritty young fellows who would rather fall helpless in their tracks than give up voluntarily.

The coaches who have the interests of the players at heart are too far away to judge always of their condition, and the judges of the play are too busy with their manifold duties to see the signs of collapse in a player, as a medical man, with nothing else to do, would be able to see them.

Football Is Not Ping-Pong.

Football is a strenuous game, and those who play it are likely to be hurt from time to time. But there are many ways to get hurt in every outdoor sport. There is no necessity for those who want to see football abolished to harp on the danger question. Admitting that the game is not one for men who cannot stand hard knocks, we are still of the opinion that in a game between two well-trained elevens, with every player capable of clear thinking, there is no reason why anybody should be killed.

There is no reason why a well-conditioned, clear-minded football player should be fatally injured in the most fiercely contested game that is cleanly played—and the college game today is clean, notwithstanding the insinuations of people who do not know what they are talking about. A football player who has competent instructors knows how to fall when tackled, and how to go into a scrimmage both on offense and defense. To suppose that every scrimmage is a rough and tumble fight is ridiculous. There is plenty of "give" to the bodies of players who come together before the danger point is reached, and in the majority of cases the men know just how to receive the shock.

But the situation is entirely different when a man has a befuddled brain; and it is no credit to the sport to say that players often go through a game or a part of it in such a doubtful mental condition after a hard knock on the head—which the wearing of a headgear might have prevented—that later, when their brain has cleared up again, they can remember only a small part of what transpired. While the contest was on they had only an idea that they were out on the field to oppose with all their strength in some way the men who did not wear the same colored jerseys that they wore.

Injured Players.

A man in such a condition or even one not so bad, cannot be expected to take care of himself, especially on defense. He has lost the fine balance of mind and body that is a natural protection against injury. The opposing players do not size him up as a medical man would. They only see that the road to a touchdown leads through his position, and they direct a steady attack on him—the point of least resistance.

That's the way they got Byrne. The right side of the Army line and successfully withstood the Crimson attack. The Harvard general tested the line at other points, and finally Byrne's position looked best for a target. Already weak, the Army man could not stand it. That the Harvard players knew Byrne was not capable of taking care of himself is not to be considered for a moment. They did know, however, that he was weakening. Once again, we say, the need of a medical man close to struggling teams becomes apparent.

There can be no reason why the addition of such a man to the staff of officials should in any way interfere with the work of his associates. A competent man without any partisan feeling ought to be able to do great work in such a position. To those who pay to see football games he certainly would be a welcome addition.

SPECIAL HORSE TRAIN STARTS FOR EL PASO

NEW YORK, Nov. 13.—Special train left Latonia for El Paso tonight, made up of twelve horse cars and a couple of Pullman coaches for owners, trainers and help in the racing stables. Matt Wynn arranged for the shipment of nearly 100 horses by this means for his Juarez meeting before he left Latonia. This speaks well for the winter meeting in Mexico, so far as material is concerned, as a dozen strings of horses will leave for that point between this time and Thanksgiving day, the date of the opening. Among the owners that have applied for stable room are H. G. Bedwell, J. R. Weinwright, J. C. Ferris, J. Marcham, L. B. Fitzgerald, C. Van Meter, Henderson & Hogan, T. M. Irwin, J. B. Respass, A. L. Kirby, C. Wilson, J. Young, M. Burns, W. T. Spiers, R. Gilmore, J. Davis, Max Hirsch, T. Mannix, E. Linnell, C. F. Clark, R. Smith, T. G. Mollinelli and J. Blute.

It is hardly probable that "Sam" Hildreth will race anywhere this winter, it being his intention to rest up his entire string and have them well prepared for next summer's campaign. He has partially made arrangements to pay a visit to Buenos Ayres for a vacation and rest after his strenuous season. If he makes this move he will be away the greater part of the winter season, as it takes three weeks to make one-half of the trip, and it is more than probable he will spend at the least a month in looking over the racing situation and other business enterprises in South America.

FOOTBALL DEATH LIST IS SERIOUS

Many School Boys Are Killed on Gridiron Through Negligence.

REFEREE IS ASKED TO TAKE BYRNE FROM GAME

West Point Cadet Was Not Fit to Continue Game Before Last Down.

Tribune Special Sporting Service.

WEST POINT, Nov. 13.—Football has brought on more criticisms the past two weeks than ever before in the history of the sport. The death of three football players in various parts of the country and the attack on an official in another big game have given the critics of this sport ammunition to hurl at them for an indefinite time. These events have resulted in column after column of advice from educators, clergymen and every brand of critic suggesting changes in the playing rules "ad infinitum."

All that has been accomplished though, has been the cancellation of the annual game between the Army and Navy, which was scheduled to be played November 27 on Franklin Field of the University of Pennsylvania. But even this was not accomplished without a serious difference of opinion as to what action the situation demanded. When Midshipman Wilson of the Navy team sustained the injury in the Villa Nova contest, which physicians say will ultimately result in his death, the Navy athletic authorities wired quite explicitly that they would not ask for the cancellation of the game even if Wilson died before the game.

Call Off Games.

An entirely different attitude was taken by West Point immediately after the tragic death of Byrne, the tackle who was killed in the game with Harvard. West Point took the ground that it would be showing only common respect to their dead comrade to cancel the remaining games. The Navy acquiesced in this request, but several of the athletic authorities from Annapolis took occasion to say that they would not have acted the same under similar circumstances. The middies assume a Spartan attitude on this question. To them football is merely a part of their hardening course. They regard it just as they do gunnery practice, which they would not think of relinquishing, nor would they be allowed to do so, because it resulted in the death of a midshipman. West Point, however, took an entirely different view of the situation.

The accident so saddened the Army authorities that they considered the game were merely paying ordinary tribute to humanitarian instincts to defend their team. This, too, is the way the general public viewed the situation. If the game still had been played there would have been many persons who severely criticise the two academies for a hard hearted attitude and a lack of valuation of human life.

Cannot Explain Deaths.

A great many of the defenders of college football have been at a loss to explain satisfactorily the death of a probably fatal accident to men at both the academies. It is generally supposed that the students of the two academies are hardened in a way that the members of big college elevens are not, and that they are able to stand knocks of every kind. This is true only in a measure. Every cadet at West Point or Annapolis is obliged to pass a very rigid physical examination from which the impression has grown that they are immune to injury.

Anyone who has studied the physiques of the Army and Navy players and who is acquainted with the amount of hard work which these young men have to do can understand the prevalence of injuries in their teams. Primarily the average player on the Army and Navy elevens is younger and lighter than the average on the big college elevens. Probably deceived by the belief that no amount of hard work will injure them it has become the rule at both West Point and Annapolis for the teams to do more work than the collegians. Also they play a harder schedule than do most college teams of their size. In fact, it is not uncommon for West Point to play Harvard, Yale and some other member of the "Big Six" on succeeding Saturdays and before they have had a chance to become hardened properly.

White Feather.

On top of this the members of these two teams are imbued with the idea that they are showing the white feather when they leave the game after being injured. It is said that Byrne, the Army tackle, had been practically knocked out in the Harvard game and that Donovan, the Harvard tackle, seeing his helpless condition, had told the referee to insist that Byrne leave the field. It was immediately after this that the young soldier received his fatal injury.

Trainer Mike Murphy of the University of Pennsylvania recently made a sage remark to the writer on the subject of football accidents. He said: "The majority of accidents occur to men who are either overworked or who insist on playing when slightly injured. I always proceed on the assumption that a stale player or an injured one is worse than no player at all, and insist that he be replaced at once by a fresh man, even if by one of less skill. It is the neglect of this precaution that is responsible for most football accidents."

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