

# "Mike" Thompson Says New Football Rules Have Done Much to Improve Gridiron Sport

## REVISED FOOTBALL CODE MADE GAME BETTER LAST FALL

### Mike Thompson Says Rules Committee Will Have No Changes to Make.

By M. J. THOMPSON, Football Referee.

Despite the severe criticism the game of American football has undergone for the past few years, there is no doubt that the past season was a success from nearly every viewpoint. True, there were a few discrepancies, but so few, as compared with previous years, that they were a harmful nobody of the critics. In the first place, we did not, as in the past two seasons, have many games marred by tie scores, the Yale-Princeton game being the only exception in the more important contests. This point of the wisdom of the rules committee in advancing the idea for more scoring.

The game was more open; the elimination of the 20-yard zone, which had always been a bone of contention from its introduction, simplified matters to a great extent. The 10-yard zone behind the goal posts, which many football experts looked upon with fear, turned out to be a big asset for teams using the forward pass, with probability, this innovation made possible some very spectacular plays during the season. The rules were more definitely expressed than heretofore, so that it was a rather easy matter for the officials who had made a careful study of the game and code to get along with their work very neatly.

We find many who are opposed to the game as it is played today, and I have found this in the sentiment especially among the older football men. There seems to be a feeling on the part of some that the game is too hard, too rough and haphazard play, and that it is doing more harm to the game than good. In many ways, however, I am fixed, I do not suppose that there is going to be a universal sentiment in favor of the game as it is played today, and a very important one, was that there was less tendency this year than ever before for the older players to infringe on the rules. Not only was this evident in games that I officiated in, but I have heard from many who have informed me on the same point.

Thumbing the Book. This, to my mind, means that the boys are thumbing the rule book; and the coaches are to be praised for this. In past years it was usual to see how little the players knew about even the fundamental points; and officials had to stand for many arguments when it was entirely unnecessary. The players this past season had the right idea, and no one was more grateful than the officials. Many players have the wrong idea of officials. Some of these young men think a referee or umpire, when he appears on the field, is there, or is there for the purpose of doing damage.

I do not think that at the next session of the rules committee there will be as long a discussion as in previous years. The make-up of the code looks as near right as they can make it, unless some of our coaches are burning the midnight oil and see some chance to get around it. A few points that came up this year, and which they will no doubt act upon, have reference to the forward pass. The first point is this: On a forward pass the man to throw the ball, say, eight or ten yards from his center, as soon as he receives the ball starts around either end, at the same time looking for an eligible player of his team to whom he might pass it.

In his attempts to pick out some member of his team who is not covered he gradually forces the ball toward his own goal; and realizing that it is impossible to make the pass with members of the opposing team closing in on him, he simply throws the ball a few yards in front of him, hitting the ground and making the punter who is apt to be fully fifteen or twenty yards back of the point where the center put the ball in play. As a result the ball is brought back to the point of the previous down and the penalty for the down inflicted. This was worked several times during the season and always by the weaker team, and in some contests this exception to the rule saved many yards. This seems like the rule of the old days. When you did not gain five or ten yards you were back to square one in the possession of the offensive side.

Was Taken Out. This play was in the code for many years, and it was only changed when the exception was taken to it. This was resorted to by a team that was up against it, and it was owing to the scheme of a strategist to save his team from an overwhelming defeat that the play was tried. So with the present play, I feel sure that it will be legislated against as it is only worked by a team that is outclassed.

Another point that came up: A team is within hailing distance of the goal, is held for down and forced to kick, and has a strong punter who is apt to boot it over the goal line, giving the defensive the selection of a kick-out or scrimmage. A player shoots a forward pass out of bounds, say on the 5 or 10-yard line, making the team receiving it, as out of bounds, line up for scrimmage. This play I have seen worked many times. The team receiving the ball and defending the goal at a short distance is forced to kick. The kick is blocked and the defensive side makes a touch-down. These are two of the most important rules that I think need legislation; but when I saw the plays used I could not help but admire the coaches for their strategy in taking advantage of the rules.

Another point that the committee cleared up in the past season was in regard to the number of officials. I have an umpire with the assistance of a linesman, could handle any game. As it was last year, I took eight men to look after the duties on account of the neutral zone. There were too many to give decisions, or even to suggest them, as there was always a conflict, and the referee was always in trouble trying to straighten out the difficulty, and his solution was often to a great extent unsatisfactory. True, the umpire has a number of duties imposed upon him since the rules have been changed, but the field judge; but he has no neutral zone to look after; and with a capable line and line judge, and a capable referee with the referee; and the three of them should be able to pull off a game to the satisfaction of all.

The rules, in my opinion, in their present form, with the few suggestions offered, are as they should be. In fact, are to a great extent eliminated; the game is more open; there is more scoring; the general public likes it; and the rules are more clearly understood. The players seem to like the present game; the coaches with few exceptions agree; and the gridiron followers are satisfied. So why not let well enough alone?

## The Real Test of Friendship Comes the Day After Christmas

By Goldberg



THE LAST WORD IN GAMES—WEARING THE MUFFLER YOUR WIFE GAVE YOU.

**GOOD MANAGERS LESS SCARCE THAN THEY WERE IN 1911**

Both Leagues Better Provided With Competent Leaders.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Boston is fairly well off in the managerial way with the McAleer-Stahl-Ballings combination; the Mack-Doolin layout over in Philadelphia isn't half bad. But where, in any man's town, have they a pair to compare with Col. J. J. McGraw and Fearless Leader Frank L. Chance? No other city ever has been blessed with such talent as this.

Looking Upward. Both leagues rate higher, managerially, than they did during the 1912 campaign. J. Kling was not a howling success down in Boston; his successor, George Stallings, was the best manager the Yankees ever had. Hank O'Day did fairly well, and a fourth is in Cincinnati, and Joe Tinker had something of a job cut out for himself to better the ex-ump performances.

The chances are J. Faversham is up to it. The Cincinnati berth is his first as a regular manager, but he is not without experience. He has led the club across the river and back, and is going without completely wrecking the machine. He has the Chance reputation for mental poise to put it to effective use.

Whether Miller Huggins can do as well at St. Louis under Ben Britton as Roger Bresnahan did in the same time during the lifetime of Stanley Robinson is a proposition that cannot be figured until some time along in October next. He is generally rated, however, as a very good manager, and may develop something more if permitted to run things his own way.

**Both Better Off.** Two National League clubs seem to have been benefited by managerial changes: One, St. Louis, may lose nothing by switching, and a fourth is in doubt. There never was a brainier ball player than Johnny Evers, but Kling went to Boston with the same recommendation and failed, miserably. The best Evers can hope for is to run fairly well to the example set for him by Chance. He seems to relish his opportunity, but there are said to be several umpires who don't half discharge their job.

The American League, with Chance coming to New York, Callahan to another unknown quantity in Chicago, the McAleer-Stahl combination a success in Boston, George Stovall doing nicely in St. Louis and Clark Griffith performing wonders in Washington, was never in a better way. Only Cleveland seems not to be on the upward trend.

Chance's Salary. There isn't the slightest doubt that Chance will grab the Yankees for one of the best contracts ever signed by any manager, but only Frank Farrell knows just what terms the Fearless Leader is holding out for. A report from Chicago has it that Chance wants a salary approximately \$18,000 a year, with a "percentage" clause to boost his returns up to or beyond \$20,000. Chance is still in Los Angeles or the immediate neighborhood of the same and steadfastly refuses to give word as to what he would like to tempt him away from his orange groves. He declined to answer for the veteran report that he had refused to manage the Yanks for anything less than \$20,000 per annum.

The report that Chance said he would refuse to sign for a salary not greater than McGraw's, on the ground that he (Chance) had done more in baseball than the leader of the Giants, is generally discredited. Chance never has been in the habit of reckoning his own worth by the supposed value of other men, and even if he thought such a thing it's better than even money that he wouldn't say it.

**Spade to Manage.** BATTLE CREEK, Mich., Dec. 25.—Bobby Spade, a former member of the Cincinnati pitching staff, has signed to manage the local club, which is a member of the Southern Michigan Association. Spade also will pitch for Battle Creek.

**INDIANS SHOULD SUCCEED IF EVER THEY ENTER RING**

Requirements to Play Football Not Much Different From Those of Boxing.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 25.—Jimmy Coffey isn't the first boxer of Indian descent. There have been several good Indians. One of them was Joe Greeg. Joe, a wiry, lean, stolid Indian, came into Frisco years ago looking for a fight. He was so reticent that he didn't tell the club managers he hadn't had a meal for three days. He was given a place to sleep, but no one thought of staking him anything to eat. Joe fought that first fight with the belt drawn tight, and he fought like a wild-cat. Perhaps he thought he wouldn't get any coin unless he won.

Gregg won. His opponent, a good local lightweight named Hawley, wasn't satisfied. He demanded a return match, and was given another chance. This time the Indian had a busy week covering away porterhouse steaks and what he did to Hawley on a full stomach was a caution.

Speaking of Indians, football isn't much different from boxing, in the qualities brought into play. And the Indian team this season, averaging under 170 pounds in weight, made a wonderful record. It was brilliant, reckless football, and the result showed in the scoring. In 14 games they averaged more than 20 points per game.

Imagine that team of Indians trained with the gloves for a few months and then turned loose in our amateur boxing championships.

**American Members Asked to Congress**

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—The American members of the International Olympic Committee, Prof. William M. Stoen, Allison V. Filmore, and Everett Jansen Wendell, have been invited to participate in the congress of the committee which will convene at Lausanne, Switzerland from May 5 to 11 next year.

**Cardinals Offer \$4,000 For Jimmie Sheppard**

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—Miller Huggins, manager of the St. Louis National League baseball team, has offered the Chicago National League club owners \$4,000 for the veteran outfielder, Jimmie Sheppard. President Murphy is considering the offer. He previously had attempted to trade Sheppard to St. Louis for pitchers.

**Swimming Races Held in Freezing Water**

BOSTON, Dec. 25.—Nearly a score of hardy athletes plunged into the freezing waters of Dorchester Bay today to compete in 25, 50 and 100 yard swimming races.

Although the men had to combat floating ice every contestant finished, good time being made in each of the events.

**Wants Jones.** Davy Jones is booked to leave the Tigers and go to the Indianapolis club. Mike Kelley, the new manager of the Hoosiers, is dickering for the veteran and has hopes of completing the deal.

**DR. REED SPECIALIST**  
204 Seventeenth Street  
27 YEARS' Successful practice in the cure of Chronic Nerves, and Special Diseases of Men and Women.  
Means Health to You if You Suffer From Catarrh, Obesity, Rheumatism, Constipation, Piles, Thrush, Lung, Brain, Heart, Blood, and Skin Diseases, Nervous Debility, Kidney Diseases, Bladder Trouble, Eczema, Blood Poisoning, Eruptions, Ulcers, and all private diseases cured for life by safe methods.  
CHARGES LOW, INCLUDING MEDICINE.  
CONSULTATION FREE.  
Private Waiting Room for Ladies.  
OFFICE HOURS:  
10 to 12 & 5 to 8, Sundays, 10 to 12.

**Canadian Racers Announce Schedule**

The Canadian Racing Association has arranged the dates for the various meetings next year as follows:  
Toronto—Saturday, May 24, to Saturday, May 31.  
Montreal—Wednesday, June 5, to Wednesday, June 11.  
Hamilton—Wednesday, June 25, to Wednesday, July 1.  
Fort Erie—Friday, July 4, to Friday, July 11.  
Windsor—Wednesday, July 16, to Wednesday, July 23.  
Hamilton—Saturday, July 26, to Saturday, August 2.  
Fort Erie—Wednesday, August 6, to Wednesday, August 12.

**Fights to Eat.** Every winter McGraw's ball club gets all shot to pieces by the withering frost of items of one kind and another, and every spring he has to fight his way through ball players in the lobby of the Arlington Hotel at Marlin in order to get to the dining room before all the "pions of fowl, a la Chatham" are gone.

**"Through Forever," Says Former White Champ**

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 25.—Answering the question if he would meet the winner of the "white hope" tournament to decide the championship, Jimmie Jeffries announced once again that his battle with Jack Johnson was his last. "Well, I should say not," continued Jeff. "Not for any amount of money." "I fought Johnson at the urgent pleas of my friends to bring the world's championship back to the white race, and did my best, but it wasn't in me. Johnson is done for good, and one of these white hopes look good enough to me to be the champion." Jeffries has been watching Luther, Mc-

**Becker to Stay.** Beals Becker will not be allowed to get away from the Giants. McGraw asked for waivers on his outfielder with the intention of slipping him to Indianapolis, but Huggins refused to waive, as well as Joe Tinker. There is an outside chance that the gardener will become a member of the St. Louis squad by springtime.

**Triangular College Chess League Starts**

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—The annual tournament of the Triangular College Chess League got under way in earnest today at the Brooklyn Chess Club. Pennsylvania, Cornell, and Brown are the colleges represented. This is the fourteenth annual tournament in which these three colleges have engaged. The prize is a handsome trophy donated by Isaac L. Rice, of this city. Pennsylvania and Cornell are now tied in the race for the trophy.

**Goos South.** Groundkeeper John Murphy, who manages the Brush Stadium, is to leave New York this week for Martin Springs, Tex., to cut and manure Emerson Park, where the Giants will train next spring.

**Becker to Stay.** Beals Becker will not be allowed to get away from the Giants. McGraw asked for waivers on his outfielder with the intention of slipping him to Indianapolis, but Huggins refused to waive, as well as Joe Tinker. There is an outside chance that the gardener will become a member of the St. Louis squad by springtime.

**Canadian Racers Announce Schedule**

The Canadian Racing Association has arranged the dates for the various meetings next year as follows:  
Toronto—Saturday, May 24, to Saturday, May 31.  
Montreal—Wednesday, June 5, to Wednesday, June 11.  
Hamilton—Wednesday, June 25, to Wednesday, July 1.  
Fort Erie—Friday, July 4, to Friday, July 11.  
Windsor—Wednesday, July 16, to Wednesday, July 23.  
Hamilton—Saturday, July 26, to Saturday, August 2.  
Fort Erie—Wednesday, August 6, to Wednesday, August 12.

**Fights to Eat.** Every winter McGraw's ball club gets all shot to pieces by the withering frost of items of one kind and another, and every spring he has to fight his way through ball players in the lobby of the Arlington Hotel at Marlin in order to get to the dining room before all the "pions of fowl, a la Chatham" are gone.

**"Through Forever," Says Former White Champ**

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 25.—Answering the question if he would meet the winner of the "white hope" tournament to decide the championship, Jimmie Jeffries announced once again that his battle with Jack Johnson was his last. "Well, I should say not," continued Jeff. "Not for any amount of money." "I fought Johnson at the urgent pleas of my friends to bring the world's championship back to the white race, and did my best, but it wasn't in me. Johnson is done for good, and one of these white hopes look good enough to me to be the champion." Jeffries has been watching Luther, Mc-

**Becker to Stay.** Beals Becker will not be allowed to get away from the Giants. McGraw asked for waivers on his outfielder with the intention of slipping him to Indianapolis, but Huggins refused to waive, as well as Joe Tinker. There is an outside chance that the gardener will become a member of the St. Louis squad by springtime.

**Triangular College Chess League Starts**

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—The annual tournament of the Triangular College Chess League got under way in earnest today at the Brooklyn Chess Club. Pennsylvania, Cornell, and Brown are the colleges represented. This is the fourteenth annual tournament in which these three colleges have engaged. The prize is a handsome trophy donated by Isaac L. Rice, of this city. Pennsylvania and Cornell are now tied in the race for the trophy.

**Goos South.** Groundkeeper John Murphy, who manages the Brush Stadium, is to leave New York this week for Martin Springs, Tex., to cut and manure Emerson Park, where the Giants will train next spring.

**Becker to Stay.** Beals Becker will not be allowed to get away from the Giants. McGraw asked for waivers on his outfielder with the intention of slipping him to Indianapolis, but Huggins refused to waive, as well as Joe Tinker. There is an outside chance that the gardener will become a member of the St. Louis squad by springtime.

**Canadian Racers Announce Schedule**

The Canadian Racing Association has arranged the dates for the various meetings next year as follows:  
Toronto—Saturday, May 24, to Saturday, May 31.  
Montreal—Wednesday, June 5, to Wednesday, June 11.  
Hamilton—Wednesday, June 25, to Wednesday, July 1.  
Fort Erie—Friday, July 4, to Friday, July 11.  
Windsor—Wednesday, July 16, to Wednesday, July 23.  
Hamilton—Saturday, July 26, to Saturday, August 2.  
Fort Erie—Wednesday, August 6, to Wednesday, August 12.

**Fights to Eat.** Every winter McGraw's ball club gets all shot to pieces by the withering frost of items of one kind and another, and every spring he has to fight his way through ball players in the lobby of the Arlington Hotel at Marlin in order to get to the dining room before all the "pions of fowl, a la Chatham" are gone.

**"Through Forever," Says Former White Champ**

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 25.—Answering the question if he would meet the winner of the "white hope" tournament to decide the championship, Jimmie Jeffries announced once again that his battle with Jack Johnson was his last. "Well, I should say not," continued Jeff. "Not for any amount of money." "I fought Johnson at the urgent pleas of my friends to bring the world's championship back to the white race, and did my best, but it wasn't in me. Johnson is done for good, and one of these white hopes look good enough to me to be the champion." Jeffries has been watching Luther, Mc-

**Becker to Stay.** Beals Becker will not be allowed to get away from the Giants. McGraw asked for waivers on his outfielder with the intention of slipping him to Indianapolis, but Huggins refused to waive, as well as Joe Tinker. There is an outside chance that the gardener will become a member of the St. Louis squad by springtime.

**Triangular College Chess League Starts**

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—The annual tournament of the Triangular College Chess League got under way in earnest today at the Brooklyn Chess Club. Pennsylvania, Cornell, and Brown are the colleges represented. This is the fourteenth annual tournament in which these three colleges have engaged. The prize is a handsome trophy donated by Isaac L. Rice, of this city. Pennsylvania and Cornell are now tied in the race for the trophy.

**Goos South.** Groundkeeper John Murphy, who manages the Brush Stadium, is to leave New York this week for Martin Springs, Tex., to cut and manure Emerson Park, where the Giants will train next spring.

**Becker to Stay.** Beals Becker will not be allowed to get away from the Giants. McGraw asked for waivers on his outfielder with the intention of slipping him to Indianapolis, but Huggins refused to waive, as well as Joe Tinker. There is an outside chance that the gardener will become a member of the St. Louis squad by springtime.

**Canadian Racers Announce Schedule**

The Canadian Racing Association has arranged the dates for the various meetings next year as follows:  
Toronto—Saturday, May 24, to Saturday, May 31.  
Montreal—Wednesday, June 5, to Wednesday, June 11.  
Hamilton—Wednesday, June 25, to Wednesday, July 1.  
Fort Erie—Friday, July 4, to Friday, July 11.  
Windsor—Wednesday, July 16, to Wednesday, July 23.  
Hamilton—Saturday, July 26, to Saturday, August 2.  
Fort Erie—Wednesday, August 6, to Wednesday, August 12.

**Fights to Eat.** Every winter McGraw's ball club gets all shot to pieces by the withering frost of items of one kind and another, and every spring he has to fight his way through ball players in the lobby of the Arlington Hotel at Marlin in order to get to the dining room before all the "pions of fowl, a la Chatham" are gone.

**"Through Forever," Says Former White Champ**

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 25.—Answering the question if he would meet the winner of the "white hope" tournament to decide the championship, Jimmie Jeffries announced once again that his battle with Jack Johnson was his last. "Well, I should say not," continued Jeff. "Not for any amount of money." "I fought Johnson at the urgent pleas of my friends to bring the world's championship back to the white race, and did my best, but it wasn't in me. Johnson is done for good, and one of these white hopes look good enough to me to be the champion." Jeffries has been watching Luther, Mc-

**Becker to Stay.** Beals Becker will not be allowed to get away from the Giants. McGraw asked for waivers on his outfielder with the intention of slipping him to Indianapolis, but Huggins refused to waive, as well as Joe Tinker. There is an outside chance that the gardener will become a member of the St. Louis squad by springtime.

**Triangular College Chess League Starts**

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—The annual tournament of the Triangular College Chess League got under way in earnest today at the Brooklyn Chess Club. Pennsylvania, Cornell, and Brown are the colleges represented. This is the fourteenth annual tournament in which these three colleges have engaged. The prize is a handsome trophy donated by Isaac L. Rice, of this city. Pennsylvania and Cornell are now tied in the race for the trophy.

**Goos South.** Groundkeeper John Murphy, who manages the Brush Stadium, is to leave New York this week for Martin Springs, Tex., to cut and manure Emerson Park, where the Giants will train next spring.

**Becker to Stay.** Beals Becker will not be allowed to get away from the Giants. McGraw asked for waivers on his outfielder with the intention of slipping him to Indianapolis, but Huggins refused to waive, as well as Joe Tinker. There is an outside chance that the gardener will become a member of the St. Louis squad by springtime.

# Eiseman & Co., Seventh and E Sts.

## Semi-Annual Sale

Of Men's, Young Men's, and Children's

# Suits and Overcoats

Every Garment in Stock Included  
—Nothing Reserved—All to Go

# At 25 Per Cent Off

Sale Started This Morning With a Rush!

# Eiseman & Co., Seventh and E Sts.

## Outfitters to Men and Boys