

Timely Sporting News and Views

FORWARD PASS IS NOT LIKELY TO BE GREATLY DEVELOPED

Football Players Being Coached to Pick Up Ball and Run



Photo by American Press Association.

Prichard of Army, on Left, Attempting to Make Forward Pass in Game With Yale.

It Was Uncompleted

By TOMMY CLARK.

THE forward pass is being developed to no greater extent than last year. There is little doubt that after the end of the present season the play will come in for just as much censure as it has in the years that have passed since its adoption. There is no reason to assume that the play will be any more successful as a ground game than

was the case last fall or the one before. The big eleven have so far failed to develop the play to the extent which they expected, or, rather, to the extent which they led the general followers of the game to believe it would be. They have depended more on the running style of game, and there is every reason to think that that method of play will be the predominating feature of the work of the larger teams. Of

course the smaller institutions must depend more or less on chance plays when they meet the eleven representing the big schools. The running style of game under the new rules is certain to prove effective. When two teams are fairly evenly matched there is little doubt that it will be the most productive method of gaining ground. There is hardly any likelihood that the forward pass will

be used for anything more than to cover the running plays. The defense must be kept well scattered. If it is not, then it will be almost as difficult to make the ten yards in four downs as it was to make it in three. If the defense of the teams this year was such that the backs could all be brought up behind the line of scrimmage there would be little doubt that it would be so much stronger than the

offense it would be a difficult matter to gain the required distance. As it is, provided the secondary defense is kept back, it will not be easy to prevent a team from gaining what is desired. It is for this purpose that the forward pass will be used more than for any other. Instead of depending on the play to make touchdowns and gain ground in general it will be used just enough to cover the other plays.

And, even at that, there is going to be a great deal of adverse criticism regarding the forward pass at the end of the season. Of course it will always be the contention of its advocates that it lessens the danger in the game and also provides thrills for the spectators when a long pass is got away with successfully, but, at that, it is a hybrid play and has little part in the real game of football.

COACH YOST believes that Sammy White, the Princeton player who won both the Yale and Harvard games by picking up a fumbled ball and running with it, did the only logical thing he could under the circumstances. The recent talk of the question as to whether White's two sensational plays will revolutionize that part of the game or not brought the subject into the conversation as the coach was directing his squad on Ferry field recently.

It has always been noticed that Yost is particularly about having his men learn to fall on the ball, and this fact has been remarked on by several experts in the game who have seen Michigan play. However, it seems to have escaped their notice that the coach is equally anxious to have his players learn to handle the ball on the bounce and in an open field.

"White did what I would want a player to do," said the coach. "Both the fumbles came way back of the line of scrimmage, and there were no opponents near White. It was his game to pick up the ball and run with it. That, you know, is a part of the game. A player ought not to try to pick up a ball that fumbles near the line of scrimmage or where there are opponents trying to get it too. Suppose a man tried to grab the ball while the other side is after it. He can't reach up in the air for it, you know. He has to stretch out his arms and feel along the ground. Nine times out of ten just as he gets his hands on the ball another comes some big player on the other side and smashes down his arms. I tell my men to fall on the ball and hug it. Why? Because that keeps your side in possession of the ball, but that instruction doesn't apply to a free ball where there is a good chance to get away for a run. If the center passes the ball badly and it goes by the quarter and hits the ground pick it up and run with it—that is, unless your line doesn't hold and the other side are on top of you. Then fall on the ball and hug."

DIRECT PASS SLOWS UP GAME

IN one particular, the new football rules point to a reversion to the old school theory of attack. The addition of one more down makes it highly probable that the offensive team, as soon as it gains possession of the ball, will attempt for two downs at least to rush. A premium has been placed upon continued possession of the ball and luck, which played such a large part in the games last year, has been materially abolished.

Straight football will be more in evidence this year, consequently more attention than ever will be paid to the development of a swift attack. Now that pushing and puffing have been abolished it becomes increasingly important that the backs get to the opening before the defense has time to size up the play.

There are many devices for speeding up the attack. One is the starting signal, another not much practiced is having the back field watch the center's wrists before the ball is put in play. It is possible by doing so to tell by the snap of the wrists before the ball is passed just when it is coming so that the backs can start with the ball and not a shade of a second after it, as so many back fields do today.

The direct pass from center to half-back, used considerably at Yale, is another device for increasing the speed of a play. The speed of a play depends upon the amount of time the runner takes to get to the line. Anything which prevents the runner from concentrating his whole attention upon this essential is bad. The direct pass is bad in this respect because, instead of removing all responsibility from the runner by permitting the quarterback to feed the ball to him, the runner

must think of getting the ball before he gets to his hole, and if the direct pass is in the slightest degree untrue hesitation on the part of the runner results and the speed of the play is negated.

The only sound, sure and swift manner of feeding the ball to the back is to rush the medium of the quarter. With the return to straight football will come the sustained attack. It is likely that we shall see more "goal line marches" this year. When the offensive team starts on its march down the field it will be good policy to wear down the defense by the use of a highly diversified attack.

The defense must not be given time to guess the psychology of the attack and in proportion as the distance of the goal lines diminishes speed of the attack should increase.

Ed Walsh Greatest of "Iron" Pitchers

THAT peculiar niche in baseball affairs which is filled by what are known as "iron men" is one that has had few occupants. The "iron men" of note, real "iron men," have been few and far between. The term is applied only to pitchers and means those pitchers whose constitutions are sufficiently strong to permit them to do more work in the box than most twirlers could stand. Unusual capacity for work and exceptional pitching ability are attributes of the "iron men" of the mound.

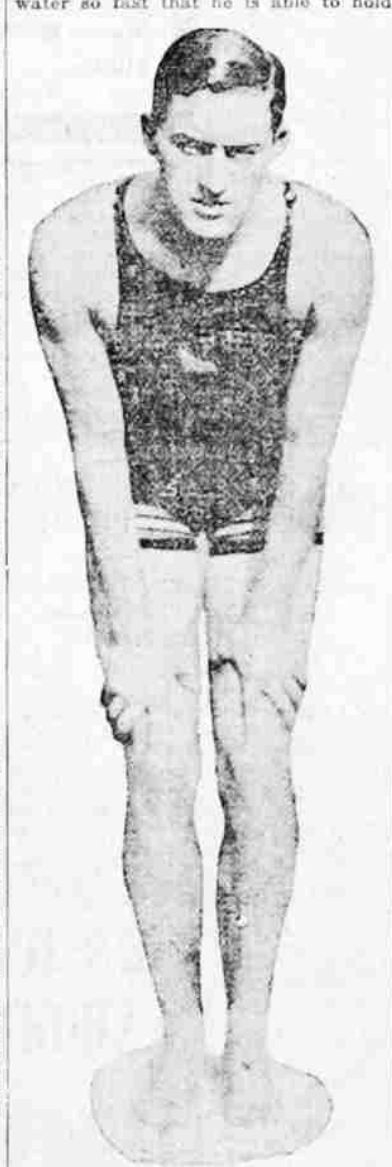
The first pitcher to whom the term was applied was Joe McGinnity, and he came into it not so much because of the frequency with which he pitched as his capacity for double headers. To this day he goes into the box often, and few pitchers have worn so well. There are two other leading exponents of the "iron man" business. One is Ed Walsh of the Chicago White Sox, the most noted of the three, and the

other is Jack Coombs. Coombs did not pitch as frequently the past season as he did last year, but his capacity for work, coupled with his skill as a box-leader, made him a valuable asset to the Athletics over many a rough spot and pulled out many a game in which some other pitcher had wobbled.

Coombs, like Walsh, could stand being hurled into the breach many a time beyond the ordinary, and then his experience on the "peak" did the rest. Walsh probably has pitched in more games a year for the length of time he has been in the game than any other pitcher baseball has known. It was predicted half a dozen years ago that the inordinate wear and tear would get him, but he is still at it, and as effective, if not as strong, as ever. He is a spitball pitcher, too—another thing supposed to be very trying, but he contends that with him that form of delivery is no more exacting on the arm than any other way of pitching.

GOODWIN HAS RECORD AS SWIMMER

LEO BUD GOODWIN of New York, known the world over as Bud, contracted the habit of winning championships away back in 1901. Championships have come and gone since then, but time has not diminished the speed or staying powers of this remarkable athlete, who topped off his list of championships this year by winning two national titles and two metropolitan. In every form of aquatic sport Goodwin is there like a duck. Distance has no terrors for him, and at the same time he whips his arms through the water so fast that he is able to hold



"Clean Break" Rule Has Helped Boxing

THE "clean break" rule is here to stay, and, according to W. J. C. Kelly, an Australian now in this country, it is going to stay wherever tried out. Mr. Kelly is the representative of Hugh McIntosh, the Sydney fight promoter.

"Clean breaks are demanded in every glove fight in my country," said Mr. Kelly, "and referees are required to give this rule a strict enforcement."

There is a fast growing demand for the application of this rule in boxing contests wherever given, and in the United States it is observed in nearly all sections where bouts of importance are held except on the Pacific coast. In California it won't be very long before it will be found necessary to adopt the rule in protection of the promoters' interests and for the preservation of the sport.

This modification of the Queensberry code, simple as it may seem, is doing more to brush aside long standing prejudice against ring contests than any change which has been noted since the code was written.

The possibilities of boxing as a source of entertainment and recreation are recognized by a lot of people now who formerly opposed it because of the many objectionable features. Not the least of these was the spectacle of a rough and ready, burly fighter of little science but great muscular strength taking advantage of the protect yourself at all times spirit of "straight" Queensberry rules by dragging, mauling and hauling his more scientific but lighter and weaker opponent all over the ring while waiting to "smack over a punch" at the breakaway. This tumbledown and conveyed the impression of anger and a desire to injure instead of a contest to demonstrate the science of boxing and perfection of physical attainment, with no malice and willful intent to injure. To offset this the "clean break" rule was hit upon as the proper antidote for good results.

There are some yet who sneer at what they term the "ladylike" rules, but they will have to give way to popular opinion if the sport is to remain.

Trinity Has Football Player Who Smashes Everything Ahead, But Doesn't Know Why

THE most famous fictitious footballer, George Fitch's Ole Skjarsen of the Swinash college, is outdone by a tow headed freshman who is now playing on the Trinity football squad. The freshman is Clarence A. Meyer of Walpole, Mass., and within a few years Professor Raymond G. Gettelf, coach of the Trinity team, predicts he will be one of the great stars of the gridiron, although at present he's almost as worthless as a wax doll.

Meyer is only seventeen old, but he's built on a large foundation and has plenty of room to expand. He's growing fast as weeds in an onion patch, and he has speed to burn, having a good high school record as a 100 yard

dash man. He has more than the proverbial awkwardness of the freshman. Because of his great strength Coach Gettelf gave him a chance in the second half of the Trinity-Middlebury game in Boston recently when Trinity was far ahead. Meyer was given the ball, and with a snort and a sprint he threw himself at the opposing line, which scattered like the crowd after a world's series game. He was tackled after he had made about twenty yards, however, and immediately dropped the pigskin. He fumbled every time he got the ball in that game, and he has been doing it since.

The second team coaches and the varsity players have been working on

him, however, and they expect to make an All American back out of him one of these days. Meyer now weighs 175 pounds, but he is wonderfully strong and has no such thing as fear in his make up. He is never hurt, in spite of the fact that the coaches have been using him as a human catapult in their efforts to rid him of his awkwardness and teach him the points of the game. Meyer's fellow football warriors used to call him "Walpole" at first, in the same tone that they would call a player "bonehead," but his resemblance to the Swinash hero who could plow through any team but didn't know why he was doing it was early seen, and Clarence is now Ole Meyer.

NEW CROP OF HEAVYWEIGHTS SEEKING LAURELS AND CASH

IT'S a new and strange crop of heavyweights that flits past the reviewing stand these days. Palzer, Wells, McCarthy, McMahon, Willard, "Gunboat" Smith and Charley Miller represent a new generation.

Palzer, who drew the headlines a few years ago have passed on to the minor leagues. Only one of the old line fighters remains to ruffle the temper of the reigning squad of present times. He is Jim Flynn, who recently on the coast defeated a rib or two for "Truck Horse" Charley Miller, upon whom Flynn had tied the first glove a few seasons back. Flynn is about the one veteran who debuted a decade ago that is still able to stand up and whack with the young bloods successfully.

Flynn has outlived Barry, Kaufman, Savage, Ross, Kublak, Willie, Jim Smith, Tommy Burns, Mike Shreck, Marvin Hart and Sandy Ferguson. It was not such a great while ago that Al Kaufman was being boomed for the confound of the ponderous class. He was going along, ripping in the good night blast on all who thought they stacked with him. His mess of K. O.'s included the name of Jim Flynn, selling that gentleman back a mile in his native adventuring. As a strange coincidence Flynn married with big Al at Kansas City in May, 1911, and turned the world upside down for the Californian. Kaufman was given a beating that his memory will recall forever, is no longer.

The drubbing drove Kaufman to the rocks, and he has not had a good fight in him since. Later McCarthy recently knocked out Al in two rounds. It's back to the butcher shop for Al. Jim Barry, who knocked out "Gunboat" Smith in 1910, is on his last legs. He gets beat upon each appearance in fighting togs. In days gone by Jim could rattle his fists some. Once he whipped Lumbard, Tony Ross recently was barred by the New York boxing commission. He doesn't seem able to get in shape any more. Once Tony was a fine looking heavyweight and a truly great scrapper, but his stomach bulges now with fat he can't



AL KAUFMAN.

and Marvin Hart are through. Two years ago this pair helped boost Carl Morris' record. "Philadelphia Jack" O'Brien lasted for the considerable period of fourteen years. He retired in 1910, but has boxed occasionally since then. John Willie had a surprising winning streak last winter, but it was about the last chapter. Jim Smith

was put out of the game by Tom McMahon's terrible wallop a year since. Forgive me and Kublak have drawn their obituaries as far as real purses are concerned. Savage is a quitter who will never amount to anything. It

is doubtful if Joe Jeannette is as good as formerly. The successors of these men are comparatively inexperienced yet. Wells has been boxing three years. McMahon four, "Gunboat" Smith four, McCarthy two, Miller five, Palzer two, Willard one.

Wells has a remarkably clean pair of legs, well suited to sprinting. His work in the ring showed him to be capable of a burst of great speed, but not sustained effort. Wells was married recently and decided to postpone his return to this country for several months. He is most anxious to have another try at Al Palzer in order to wipe out the stain of his defeat.

Walter Johnson Respects Tris Speaker

IN speaking of the best batter in the American league and also the most dangerous stick to face Pitcher Walter Johnson of Washington picks no other than Tris Speaker, the sensational outfielder of the Boston Red Sox. The Senators' slasher has much respect for the Beantown batter when the latter appears in the batter's box with Johnson on the hill, and, although the big National tries his best in outwitting the stalwart slammer, he states that it is a very difficult problem to do.

"Speaker has absolutely no weakness at the bat," says Johnson. "You might just as well pass him as to try to coax him to offer at last hole. When Tris comes up all I do is to put everything I have on the ball and pray that he doesn't hit it on the nose."

Wells Is Fast Sprinter

THAT Bombardier Wells is an athlete of remarkable versatility was demonstrated recently when the English heavyweight champion participated in a race against the best professional sprinters in England. Postle, Donaldson, and Reggie Walker, the South African crack, were among his competitors. Wells was so well thought of that he was made favorite in the betting for his heat. He finished a close second, although he would have been a sure winner if he had not stumbled at the start. The distance was 120 yards and was run in twelve and two-fifths seconds, which was one-fifth of a second faster than the heat won by Walker.

BUD GOODWIN READY FOR START OF A RACE

his own with the best men in the country at all distances, from twenty-five yards to thirteen and one-half miles. As a water polo player Goodwin has few equals, and he has played center forward on no less than ten champion teams at this sport.

It took Goodwin a couple of years before he reached the stage where he was able to begin winning championships, so that altogether he has been in competition for fourteen years and in that time has won over 600 medals and over 100 cups, enough to stock a jewelry store if he should elect to go in that business. Harry and Don Reeder were the leading swimmers when Goodwin first determined to snatch some of their laurels away from them. Then came Fred Wenck to dispute his supremacy at the longer distances, and later the champion of champions, C. M. Daniels. Both men reigned in his turn, but all have tired of the strenuous pastime of plowing through the water, and none of the newcomers is able to cope with the sturdy veteran.

Chance Found a Horseshoe

FRANK CHANCE's wealth needs no explanation; other than the announcement that he bought into the Chicago Cubs game in 1905 with \$19,000. That represented one-tenth of the Cubs' stock.

Flipping back the files, we find that the entire Cubs' property was purchased by Charles P. Taft, Murphy and company for \$195,000—the greatest bargain ever turned in baseball. For this sum you could, two years later, not have bought three selected players from this same club.

In the seven years Chance has been connected with the team it is doubtful if there has been a single season which did not net him at least 100 per cent on the investment. He has approached nearer to 200 per cent in several pennant seasons. With bonuses made, investments and his salary savings there is no reason why Chance should not figure his total wealth nearer \$175,000 than a smaller sum if he has lived economically.

Clarke and Dreyfuss

FRED CLARKE, manager of the Pittsburgh team, signed his twentieth contract with Barney Dreyfuss recently, covering the next season. For nineteen years this pair have been associated, and thus there is undoubtedly a record established. There is not another instance where a manager has worked for one club owner for so long a period. It speaks well for both Clarke and Dreyfuss. This year the Pirates finished second, and good judges predict that the team will win the flag next year because of the fact that it is blessed with a decidedly strong staff of young pitchers.

KILBANE IS NOT A GREAT CHAMPION

A FIGHTER who can't rush and deliver the knockout wallop at the same time will never become a great champion. This seems to be the failing that Kilbane has. Immediately after he defeated Abe Attell in Los Angeles he was considered a novelty. Since then he has made three appearances in New York, and his popularity diminishes after each set-to. He has met Burns, Dundee and O'Keefe, and all three of these boys went the limit with him. There wasn't even the semblance of a knockout about it. This surely is a sorry spectacle for a champion. Had the men opposed to him been champions, no one would have thought badly of his work, but when second and third raters can go the route—well, then there is something lacking in the championship line.

Kilbane secured his prestige at a time when Attell was on the down grade, at a period when the "bad" pace was nothing but a spell of his former self. Kilbane was fortunate in being the first man to meet the former champion in that condition, but that takes away no credit from him. In this battle, for the little Cleveland didn't know just how "soft" a crowd was going to prove to be. Then, too, remember that Kilbane knocked out Joe Rivers, and that's some feat in itself. So that on his Los Angeles performance he had all the earmarks of a champion.

MARON'S NEW ATHLETIC FIELD. Chicago university athletic field will seat 30,000.