

# Big Universities to Start Football Practice Shortly

By TOMMY CLARK.

WITH baseball nearing the final stages of the season, the attention of the followers of athletics will shortly turn to football. From all sections of the country come reports of the increased interest in the strenuous gridiron game and predictions that the coming season will surely be one of the greatest games ever enjoyed.

Active preparations are already being made for the start. Captains and coaches the country over are seeking the most available men from among whom they must select the eleven which will uphold the college colors.

While the official date fixed by the conference is Sept. 26, there has been plenty of work already in back of starting to harden the muscles and strengthen the breathing apparatus for the hard work soon to come.

Yale players have been ordered to report Sept. 20, a week later than usual. The delayed date has been chosen because of faculty wishes and an unusually long spring practice, at which details of preliminary work were mastered. Head Coach Howard Jones has started work at Syracuse university, where he was head coach last year.

All the prominent candidates for this year's Harvard football eleven have received invitations from their captain, Ham Fish, to join him at his home at Irvington-on-the-Hudson and there prepare for the coming season. Light practice will be indulged in, and it is expected that a tackling dummy will be rigged up.

Practice at Cornell will start Sept. 26, but many of the candidates for the team will report at Ithaca before that date. The field coaches will include former Captain Walder, four years on the varsity; Barney O'Rourke, who was graduated last June after four years as guard and tackle; Dan Reed and "Bunny" Larkin.

It was the original intention of the Pennsylvania football management to have a few of the back field candidates go down to Island Heights, where Dr. Al Mulford, one of the coaches, has a cottage, and under his direction begin the season's work there. But these plans have not been consummated by reason of failure to secure exclusive use of the drill grounds of the Wana-maker corps. This is the best plot of ground at Island Heights for football purposes, although the Penn management may decide to have a few men report there and take practice on another field.

In order to make an early start with the football practice for the season of 1909 the members of the Naval academy squad will relinquish over a week of their scanty leave and report to Lieutenant Frank D. Berrien, head coach, Sept. 20.

The Navy loses six of the eleven regulars and some of the best substitutes. In order to win from the Army team this season it must spring a surprise like that given by the West Pointers last year, when their situation at the beginning of the season was similar to that of Annapolis this year. This year it is the Army which has the veteran team, having suffered few losses by graduation. With all chances against them the Navy boys will go to work with great spirit and determination and it is not unlikely that Annapolis is not in the fight this year.

Gridiron Prospects in West. Football prospects in the west among the "big four" colleges are exceedingly

bright, and large squads are expected to report to the coaches Sept. 26, when the official practice for the season begins.

The fight this year seems to lie between Wisconsin, Minnesota and Chicago, with the odds slightly in favor of the latter.

Carlisle Indians to Open Season. The season will open with the Carlisle Indian team against the East End A. C. of Steelton, Pa., at Carlisle, Sept. 26.



ZIMMERMAN, CHICAGO NATIONAL'S CLEVER UTILITY MAN.

of the Gophers, because most of Minnesota's old team will return to school, while several of the other schools have lost their best men by graduation. Wisconsin will suffer greatly through the loss of Stiehm, Messner, Rogers and Cunningham, all of whom were stars in their positions. Minnesota should from all reports have a better team than last year, not being greatly affected by the loss of old men, the only two to go being Plankers and Safford.

By this alteration the board did not intend to encourage the old tradition of attack, which proved so grueling in the old days, but simply to have matters so evened that a well rounded team can win on its merits.

Last fall it was mandatory for a defending side after a touchdown to punt out from the twenty-five yard line, but in the future it will be optional with the defenders to either start with a punt or drop kick. This is intended to discourage the practice on windy days to punt the ball over the goal line, forcing the opposing side to kick into the gale and have a fair catch made, from which an attempt at goal from the field might be made within a reasonable distance.

For years the rule covering the putting of the ball into play by a center was that should any of the attacking side, except the snapperback make a false move there should be a penalty, but few saw the "joker" through which the center by a balk or false movement of the elbows could pull all the opposing forwards offside and escape punishment, while the defensive side would be set back five yards.

This play was particularly effective when the defense in trying to block a punt or drop kick was overanxious to get through. All the linemen would be ready, and as soon as they saw the center bow his elbows they would come tearing through with the almost inevitable result of an offside or interference penalty.

The other changes in the rules are of minor importance. In addition to making a close study of the whole set of rules, the national board, through a special committee, has completely revised the list of officials who are recommended.

That harbinger of fall, the official football rules, has made its appearance. Changes in the rules have been few. Those who control the destinies of the game, realizing that the existing set has proved most satisfactory, have declined to make radical alterations, and it will be found that the tinkering was done more with an idea of clar-

ifying the existing rules, particularly their phraseology, than with the intention of changing the style of play that proved so popular last autumn.

Opponents of the forward pass have been numerous, with the result that this much mooted question occupied considerable time of the national committee, but after long deliberation the decision was to leave the rule practically as it has been in the past. The only change in the forward pass section was to designate the old center as a player who is eligible to receive the ball when it is thrown.

This season a man must be clearly one yard back of the neutral zone or at the end of the scrimmage line before he will be qualified to participate in the play. This conservative treatment of the clause is considered quite a victory of the western delegates to the conference, which opposed the suggestion of some of the eastern men to change the play by tossing the ball directly over the line instead of five yards out from where the ball is snapped.

During the coming campaign a goal from the field will count but three points. The reduction in value of this play is likely to meet with the unanimous approval of all coaches and players except those who are blessed with a well drilled toe upon whom the team depends for its scores.

With Coach Stage to lead the Maroons again this year Chicago is sure to be a strong contender for the honors of the west. From present indications the men lost to the Maroons will be ex-Captain Steffen, Iddings, Schomberger, Falk and Schott. The loss of Steffen will be greatly felt, as he was one of the best dodgers and field gen-

erals that the football world has ever known.

## "Love Cure," "Flag Lieutenant" and Other New Dramatic Productions--Nazimova's Plans

(From Our New York Dramatic Correspondent.)

NEW plays by the quart, young, powerful and who have docked the metropolitan boards like quills to a patch of buckwheat. No fewer than ten new dramas of late have had the breath of life blown into their nostrils, and that the present season will outstrip all records in any country as to the number of new dramas staged.

"The Love Cure," at the New Amsterdam theater, is a musical comedy with much pleasing music and a story that does not refuse to stick together. This production is an importation from abroad by Henry W. Savage, and while it will not duplicate the sensational success of "The Merry Widow," it will, like "The Gay Hussars," prove a substantial winner.

Charles J. Ross, Craig Campbell, Eva Fallon and Elgie Bowen are seen in the principal roles with excellent effect.

Story of the Play. Taking the episode of David Garrick and his attempt to disgust his sweetheart through feigning intoxication for its central situation, the authors hit the dissipation instead of the heroine. She is an actress who has promised the boy's father that she will cure his son—a stage-door Johnny—of his infatuation for her. And, by the way, in "Papa's Wife" Miss Held simulated alcoholic enthusiasm, you may recall, with capital vivacity.

The story of "The Love Cure" is not complicated, or laden with surprises, but it all leads up to a strong and picturesque climax for the second act, with the heroine dancing wildly to disgust her young lover and astonishing the guests at a reception with her declaration that the man of her choice is Torelli, the middle-aged leading man of her company, who likewise adores her. The last act, set behind the scenes a la "Zaza," has a dash of pathos, for it is then that Torelli learns that "Nelly Vaughn," that the girl's name—has used him only as a blind to conceal her real love for his youthful rival. There is another new element in the last act that helps materially to sustain the success of "The Love Cure"—the rehearsal of an awkward lot of chorus girls in a new dance by a sarcastic stage manager, punctuated with the sassy rejoinders of the young women. Milton Pollock played the stage manager with delightful dry humor.

"The Flag Lieutenant." "The Flag Lieutenant," at the Criterion theater, gives Bruce McRae an opportunity to star as a light comedian. "The Flag Lieutenant" is a breezy, briny story of the salt seas. Mr. McRae as Richard Lascelles, a captivating sea dog of romantic tendencies, carries the play along to success. For folk who cannot visit John Bull's Mediterranean fleet "The Flag Lieutenant" gives a two and a half hour picture of it that is pretty comprehensive. The British tar is seen ashore and ashore. The admirals' after-

cabin, the British camp in an expedition against the bashi-bazouks at Candia, then Malta and, lastly, the quarterdeck of the flagship Royal Edward are the scenes.

Isabel Irving's portrait of the navy acted by Lumsden Hare, Lawrence Grant and H. J. Ginn. C. Leslie Allen and Rosa Rand contribute mirthful pictures of two terrible old busy-bodies, General and Mrs. Gough-Bogle. The two "middles" are rather over-

done, though amusingly withal, by George Probert and Basil Mallam. Vera McCord is pleasing as Lady Heron. The marines' petty officers in the attack on Crete are cleverly drawn and skilfully enacted.

"McIntyre and Heath in Hayti." The "long, lingering sensation" of being hit by a dissipated and rheu-

matic "tomattus" is so vividly described by James McIntyre in "McIntyre and Heath in Hayti," the current attraction at the Circle theater, New York, under the management of Klaw & Erlanger, that the audience in its mirth at times is nearly plunged into hysterics. Laughter prevails every minute of the time that these two busy-faced comedians are on the stage.

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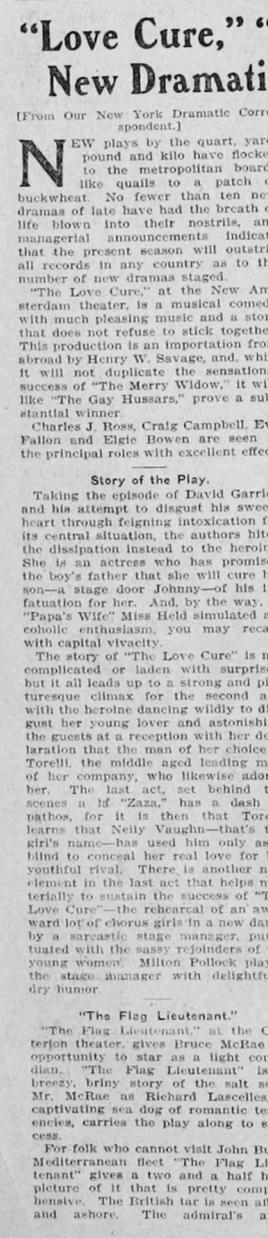
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FRANK J. SHANNON, BRUCE McRAE (ABOVE) AND VERA McCORD IN "THE FLAG LIEUTENANT"

SCENES AND PLAYERS IN TWO NEW PLAYS

CHARLES J. ROSS AND ALICE HOSMER IN "THE LOVE CURE"

CRAIG CAMPBELL AND EVA FALLON IN "THE LOVE CURE"

GRECIAN THEATER. The performances at Athens, in ancient Greece, began at dawn, and, as several pieces were produced one after the other, these performances lasted the whole day. On the days that the performances were given all work was suspended, business put off, imprisoned debtors were set free and arrests strictly prohibited. Long before sunrise thousands of people assembled, and outside of the theater noisy crowds of men, women and children congregated, all bent upon enjoying themselves and eager to obtain the best seats.

Many of them brought their food with them, and in order to stimulate the enthusiasm of the people, copious quantities of fiery Greek wine were given to impecunious citizens by wealthy authors, who endeavored thus to buy the applause of a discriminating public.

The ancient Greeks, in order to show their disapproval of a play, manifested it by kicking the benches and groaning. If the noise became so loud as to disturb every one, another play was put on. Another favorite way of showing their disapproval of an actor was by throwing stones at him. Aeschines, a famous actor of his time, very nearly lost his life on one occasion by being made the target of a stone throwing competition.

SARAH BERNHARDT IS LAME, BUT STILL BUSY. Mme. Sarah Bernhardt left Paris recently for her estate at Belle Isle, where, as usual, she passes several months. Those who saw her off at the station were amazed to find her looking so well and young, but pained to note how rapidly the malady that attacked her knee as long ago as when she was playing in "La Sorciere" had progressed. She can hardly walk a step without assistance.

Before leaving Paris she announced no less than thirteen pieces for next season. There is a sort of defiance even in the number. Among them are her new version of Rostand's "La Princesse Lointaine," a new play by Jean Richepin entitled "La Bohemienne," Gabriele d'Annunzio's "Amante," a new historic drama by Paul Hervieu, "La Grande Catherine," two Sarah plays, "Jeanne d'Arc," which was done in collaboration with Eugene Moreau, and "Speranza," done with Goldemar, and the "Savonarola" of Gabriel Trarieux, whose "L'Alibi" was produced at the Odeon a year ago by Jane Hading, and a big symbolic Russian play entitled "Psyche et Eros."

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