

### NOT MUCH GLORY ON THE GRIDIRON

Storm of Criticism for Football Is Sweeping Over the Country.

RADICAL CHANGES ARE DEMANDED IN PLAY

Famous Expert Reviews the Situation and Offers Some Good Suggestions.

By Marlon J. Pike. Tribune Special Sporting Service. NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—The football season of 1905 ended in anything except a blaze of glory. Of course a vast deal of the specific criticism which is being leveled at the devoted heads of the players in many of the universities is the result of the general criticism which has swept over the country like a storm since the killing of a Harvard player served to call attention to the fact that football had claimed at least eighteen other victims during the present season. It is probably true, as the defenders of football maintain that the death toll is no greater in proportion this season than in preceding years. But the unfortunate events in football this year occurred in such a sequence that the largest possible amount of criticism has resulted. The securing of that publicity has

caused the management of more than one football eleven to be subjected to the piercing scrutiny of that "perce white-light which beats around a throne." And it must be confessed that some of the football games this year when weighed in the balance have been found sadly wanting. This, too, when comparisons are instituted with the admittedly low football tone that has existed in more than one university and college in this country during the past few years.

**Attacking the Rules.** The question of the future of football and football rules is now in the hands of the football experts, but it is doubtful whether the greatest segregation of opinion Bourbons which ever met and discussed the merits and demerits of a ten-year rule will be able to stand up under the continued attacks upon existing rules. Just when and how the rules will be changed and just what college athletic authorities will put an end to the games—just what college athletic authorities will allow the games to be continued under new rules—these are things that the future alone must decide. No expert can do better than venture a guess as to what the future will bring forth.

**Game Called Off.** One of the minor results of this continuous round of criticism is the fact that the Army-Navy game will not be played at Princeton next year—that is, if it is played anywhere at all. This disposition to discriminate against Princeton is said to be simply because transportation facilities from and to centers of population is not first class. Of necessity, the delays at Princeton Junction, while not noticeable perhaps to students and persons journeying to Princeton, became annoying beyond endurance to the crowds anxious to get to the football game—then anxious to get home again. If the present bus and cry against football in general does not result in putting an end to the Army and Navy games entirely, New York, Philadelphia and Washington all have a chance to capture the Army-Navy contest for next year.

**May Change Methods.** Prof. William A. Nelson of Columbia university, formerly a Varsity "socker" football player in England, is one of those commencing an agitation in favor of the adoption of the British game to take the place of the present methods of football playing. Interviewed, he said: "I am heartily in favor of either abolishing football as now played by the American colleges, or else instituting such

other form and hold its place permanently. The advantages of the 'socker' game are that it is essentially a clean game, a feature which is almost entirely lacking in the other game. It does not place a premium on weight or brute force, but requires rather speed, skill and endurance. There is no system of signals in 'socker'.

As showing the interest taken and the respectability of the former prize fighter in an interview said:

**Sharkey Doesn't Like It.** "I've played football—Rugby, Association and intercollegiate—I used to be a good football player, but excuse me from the sort of game they put up on you under these college rules. They say it teaches boys to be clever Admirals and Generals. I wouldn't want to serve under some of the future Admirals I saw this afternoon if they treat their men like they treat the other team—pretending to stumble over a lad and then jabbing their spikes into him. The only thing I see develops is cowardice. They don't put up one man against another in fair fight, but four or five of them lay for the best man on the other side, and when they get him down put the boots on him and try to finish the job by all jumping on him at once, using fists, knees and everything they can. The only wonder to me is that the list of killed and injured isn't larger."

**How to Solve Problem.** The following suggestions have been made by experts as a partial solution of the problems offered:

First, a rule should be enacted limiting the side in possession of the ball to five men on the scrimmage line; all other players on this side to be at least five yards back from the scrimmage line, and the ball is put in play. This rule would permit interference to form and plays to get under way, as they cannot now, with an excessive secondary offense, and end run would become possible.

**Should Make Exception.** A second rule would concern the side in possession of the ball, and would state that in all plays the player carrying the ball must cross the line of scrimmage at least five yards outside of the position held by the player who put the ball in play. To this rule, for the sake of variety, strategic play and other considerations essential to the game, an important exception should be made. This exception would state that in one play of the three allowed to gain a first down the runner may be unrestricted by the provisions of this rule. Such a provision would compel at least normal strength in the line; would prevent the players from leaving their positions at once to back up the ends, and would permit of such variations as is essential to strategic play.

**Increase Activity.** The tendency of these modifications would be to decrease the weight and to increase the activity of the scrimmage line. Strong heavy tackles would be more essential than heavy guards and centers. Guards and centers would be chosen for their ability to tackle on the ends, and for their agility in getting into interference and assisting the runner. It is certain that the weight of teams would be reduced.

**Reversals in Form.** The characteristic feature of the season has been the remarkable amount of form reversals. Perhaps never before in the history of the game have the prominent teams played so inconsistently. Elevens which have been giants one week have been plagues the next, and for this reason any classification on the basis of comparative scores is well nigh hopeless. Pennsylvania has exhibited this unevenness noticeably, and Dartmouth has been equally erratic. What shall be said of the West Pointers suffering defeat at the hands of an obscure Southern team one month only to demonstrate form radically different in the next game which appears to have been decided through the season on a constantly ascending scale, and even in the case of Yale there appears to have been a decided slump in the final contest with the Harvard eleven.

**Retrospection Is Noted.** So when the season is considered as a whole here in the East, at least it can not be said that anything of importance was added to football history. Despite the eleven-hour rallies of several of the large Eastern college teams and the resultant close games, football retrograded both from an individual and team play standpoint in the season of 1905. Taken all in all, it has been a year of mediocre football. Hence it happens that with a record of many players killed and injured with a growing sentiment that the game as played today is decided-

ly objectionable and unsportsmanlike in many respects, there is lacking to offset this the splendid performances of teams and individual players which made football history famous in other years.

**No New Plays Seen.** Perhaps on the whole the most praiseworthy football advance was made by several of the so-called minor college elevens. Swarthmore, Dartmouth, Amherst, Pennsylvania State, Carleton, have probably won more fame and glory on the gridiron this year than some of their so-called greater competitors. But it is noticeable that out of all of this pie skin chaos not a single new or more open play worth discussing has developed, and following in the footsteps of the rules committee coaches and players drifted backward instead of advancing at this, the most critical stage in the history of this intercollegiate sport.

**First Honors to Yale.** However, when it comes to the final analysis Yale probably merits first honors. Pennsylvania second, while Chicago is undoubtedly the undisputed champion in the West. The grand totals of the leading colleges and universities follow: Yale, 27 to 4; Harvard, 14 to 4; Princeton, 23 to 4; Pennsylvania, 23 to 2; Military academy, 28 to 24; Columbia, 17 to 10; Lafayette, 33 to 35; Chicago, 27 to 5; Wisconsin, 24 to 23; Swarthmore, 17 to 23; Dartmouth, 15 to 24; Brown, 23 to 28; Carleton, 24 to 20; naval academy, 23 to 17; Cornell, 17 to 23; Amherst, 25 to 25; Michigan, 25 to 2; Minnesota, 23 to 22.

**Hard Problem Disclosed.** Selection of an all-Eastern college football eleven, to be composed of the best men in each position as they manifested their abilities throughout the season, is not easy this year. Yale's champion eleven, judged by the game it played against Columbia, was a fine example of an Eastern team trained in Western methods. All the vim and dash of the rapid, wide-open game of the West were there. But, on the other hand, it was not in evidence when Yale was playing Princeton and Harvard. Particularly true was this in the Harvard game. Yale suddenly realized that the light, wild swing and free attack would not produce results, and deserted its false gods and turned to the heavy attack of other days. It is things like this which makes the selection of an all-Eastern eleven so difficult. It is this very unevenness of playing which has made football in fact the sporting puzzle of the year. Nevertheless,

the following is suggested as a good all-Eastern team:

**Suggestion for Team.**

Positions	Name	College
Left end	Glenn	Dartmouth
Left tackle	Brill	Harvard
Left guard	Maxwell	Swarthmore
Center	Torrey	Pennsylvania
Right guard	Trapp	Yale
Right tackle	Lamborn	Pennsylvania
Right end	Shewlin	Yale
Quarterback	Hutchinson	Yale
Left halfback	Shelbie	Pennsylvania
Right halfback	Boone	Yale
Fullback	Stunge	Colgate

Michigan, Wisconsin and Chicago are the only teams considered by a majority of Western football critics in picking an all-Western eleven. The eleven is about evenly divided between the three universities that ranked one, two, three in the Western championship. Walter Eckersall, the star quarterback of the University of Chicago, is considered a place by the halfbacks and Chicago the fullback. Following is believed to be the best possible selection:

Positions	Name	College
Center	Michigan	Michigan
Quarterback	Wisconsin	Wisconsin
Fullback	Chicago	Chicago
Halfback	Michigan	Michigan
Halfback	Wisconsin	Wisconsin
Fullback	Chicago	Chicago

**FROM DIAMOND TO BAR.** Dave Fultz Will Begin the Practice of Law.

Tribune Special Sporting Service. NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—Dave Fultz, center fielder of the New York Americans, has returned to New York and announced that he has resumed the practice of law. Fultz has entirely recovered from the injuries resulting from his collision with Elberfeld just before the close of the season at American League park. Since the baseball season closed he has been getting as an official at the big football games and visiting his parents at Paoli, Pa. He probably will never play professional ball again.

**Back to Nature.** "Jones went to Maine to get back to nature." "Did he?" "Yes, he got shot by mistake for a deer and he is now buried."—Town Topics.

**OIL MAGNATE NOW TURNS DOG FANCIER**

John D. Rockefeller Is Reputed to Have Paid Immense Sum for Pets.

Tribune Special Sporting Service. NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—John D. Rockefeller is going in for Scottish terriers, and, according to the latest advices from London, he has purchased three of a famous line from Mr. Colin Young, the well-known breeder, for \$50,000. That is a round sum to pay for Scots, and indicates how readily the American gentleman gives up to the foreign breeder for what he wants.

**Americans Best Customers.** The best customers today of the English fanciers in all breeds are the Americans, who frequently send special envoys across the water to secure the best the market can supply. But after all, some of the American breed of Scottish terriers cannot be beaten anywhere. Why not patronize the home market?

**Death of Noted Fancier.** Mrs. Jonas Foster, the "patron saint" of the Yorkshire terrier, died recently in Bradford, England. For thirty years she has been winning championships with her favorites, and no name is more closely identified with the beautiful little Yorkshire. On many an occasion one of her Yorkshires took the prize as "the best dog in the show," and it afforded much amusement to the spectators to see her five-pound brim "ted" win out against a giant St. Bernard or Great Dane forty times his weight. Ted always seemed to know when he captured the show championship and strutted about like a king among his subjects.

**Valet Is Needed.** Yorkshires are very popular in this country, but they need such a deal of combing and brushing that a maid or valet is an absolute necessity to their good appearance.

**MUCH INTEREST IN WORK WITH THE FOILS**

More Prizes Than Ever Before Are Offered to Fencing Enthusiasts.

Tribune Special Sporting Service. NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—More cups, more competitions, and greater interest among the favorable prospects in fencing this season. Not only in New York but in Philadelphia, Boston, Washington and Chicago, is this keener interest in the gentle art of swordsmanship being felt.

The New York Turnverein, always great headquarters for fencers, has larger number of would-be competitors than ever before. John Alaire, one of the Turnverein veterans and an champion, expects to put a strong team of fencers in the field this season. The fact that the New York Athletic club, which still retains its rooms in Windsor Arcade, has commenced the season with indications of greater energy than has characterized it for some seasons.

The withdrawal of the old instructor Prof. Vauthier, in West Point last season, led to the necessity of securing a new maître d'arms, and Prof. Brun Bulescu of Paris has recently been engaged. He has already obtained a number of pupils. Prof. Martin Capdeville remains an assistant at the club.

The fact that the New York Athletic club now holds two of the national championships, Charles G. Bothner with the foils and K. B. Johnson with the sabre, will make fencing very active there this season, for it is the ambition of the club to capture all of the three championships, if possible, next season.

One of the new trophies that will be competed for the first time this season will be the Saitus cup. This trophy was given a short time ago to the Amateur Fencers' League of America by Sanford Saitus of this city for a dueling sword team championship contest. The initial competition for this cup will be held on April 14 at the Fencers' club. There has been a growing interest in dueling swords for the past two seasons, and the best men in the country are said to be seen in the Saitus cup contest.

A new trophy for team championship with foils has been offered this year by the Amateur Fencers' League. The material for this cup will be held February 17 at the Fencers' club.

Over twenty club and championship events have been prepared by the Amateur Fencers' League, Chicago for the first time being actively represented in the series of league events. In this of the largest number of league events will be held at the New York Athletic club. Five events have been assigned to the clubs being:

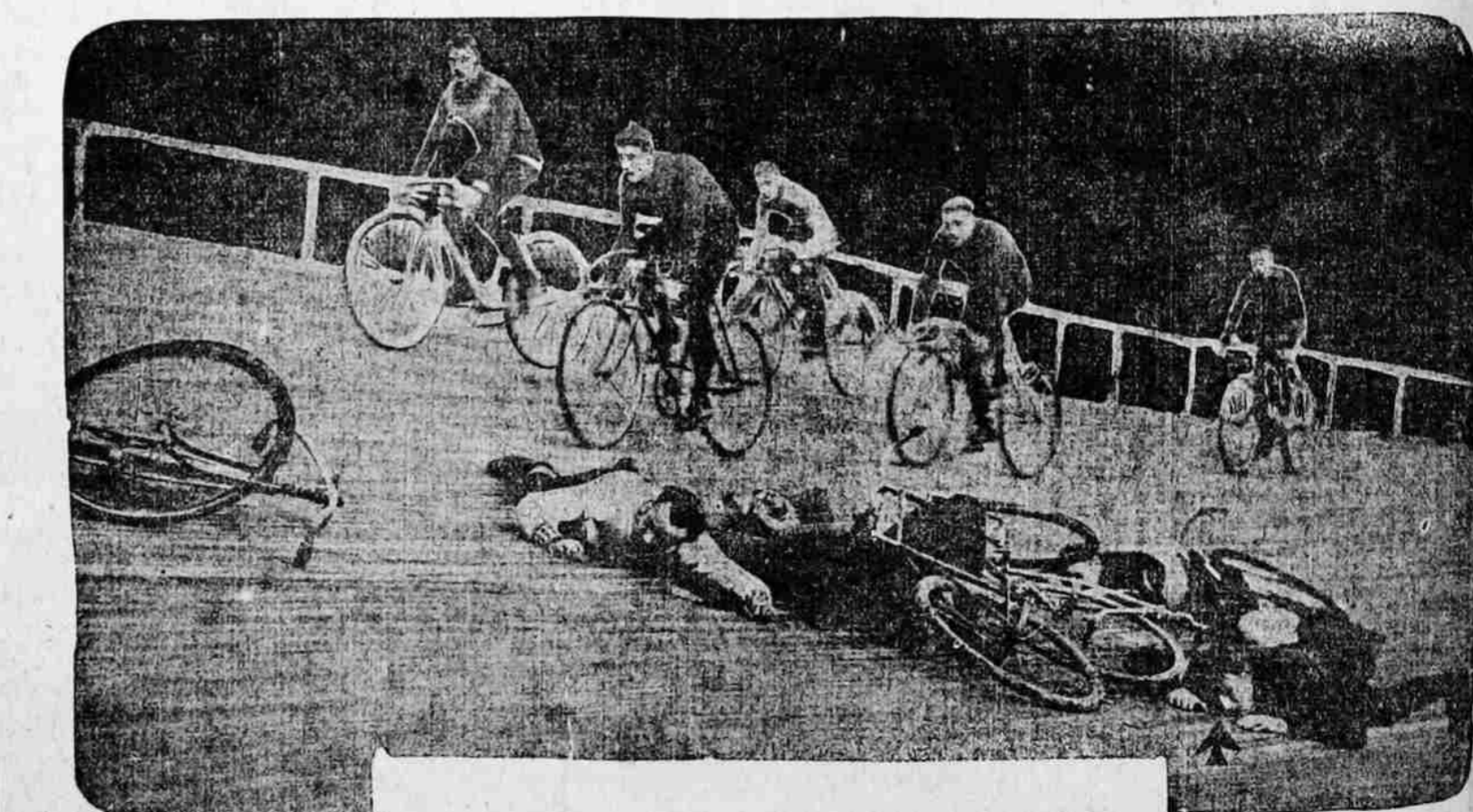
January 6—Team competition with foil sabers and dueling swords for the Fencers' club.  
January 23—Junior championship with foils.  
February 24—Junior championship, open to all.  
March (date to be selected)—Intercollegiate championship.  
April 27-28—Finales for national championship.  
Three league events will be held in rooms of the Fencers' club. Besides the two already mentioned, the other will be on March 10, an invitation contest, junior teams with foils. The winners will receive medals offered by J. Sanford Saitus. The preliminary competition for national championships will be held the Fencers' club early in April. The division holds the preliminary bouts in its own territory, and those who qualify will then meet in this city on April 28 and 29.



AMOS RUSIE, The One-Time Star Pitcher of the New York Giants, Who Has Signed a Contract to Pitch for the Springfield, O., Central League Club Next Season. Since His Retirement Rusie Has Been Working as a Laborer.

radical reforms as will make its present obnoxious features impossible. It seems to me that we should not leave the matter entirely in the hands of the present rules committee, since they have shown by their behavior and recent attitude that they are not in favor of changing the game to any great extent.

**Advantages of "Socker."** "If it is my firm opinion that the English game of 'socker' which has been recently introduced into American sport, might very well and very properly supersede the



Dead Man's Curve in the Bicycle Track in Madison Square Garden. This Is the Unlucky Spot Where Most of the spills occur. The wheels of Down the Steep Incline When a Rider Forgets Himself for a Moment and Fails to Take the Curve Properly.