

UP-TO-THE-MINUTE SPORTING NEWS.

VARIED FORMATIONS ARE NECESSARY IN FOOTBALL TODAY

SINCE the ten yard rule and the forward pass have come into the game of football formations have developed until they are essential to offensive strength. When five yards was the desired gain the formations were designed to increase the strength of the attack at certain points, but the point of attack was readily discernible in most cases. The formations used in the "new" game have the same object in view, but it is necessary to keep the defense guessing, and to do this the formation must be so designed as not to disclose the point of attack, says Lyle Pettiford, the former Minnesota football star.

Formations are more necessary in the game of today than they formerly were. It is doubtful if any eleven stars in the country could make consistent gains without the use of formations nowadays, whereas in the old game many of the gains were made from what is known as "regular formation" and the straight tandem buck was very successful. Abolishing the pull and push methods of attack has resulted in making deception of opponents more important than outweighing them. Outguessing the defense brings the same success as outplaying them formerly did, and the only offensive plays which cannot be diagnosed by the defense are those which come from deceptive formations.

The Minnesota shift became famous in the country over the reason that it was so quickly executed and well planned that the opponents did not have an opportunity to figure out what was coming. Starting from one formation, it was possible to shift into any one of several others and get the play off before the defense got settled. It is just such formations as that one which have made "new" football a success, for without quick shifts the new game would be impossible. So far as strength, speed and weight are concerned the defensive team generally can check any kind of an advance under the present rules, but when formations begin to work the defensive strength is split up and only a small part of the defense is available.

Formations have come to stay, and the team with the better formations will win the majority of games. It is not so much the necessity of having various formations as it is the advantage of having a few which are really deceptive. It might be well in the same connection to state that a deceptive formation is not necessarily



Photo by American Press Association. An Exciting Moment in Princeton-Dartmouth Game. Morey of Dartmouth Going Around End

a showy or fancy one, but rather one which will leave the defensive players in doubt as to the point at which the attack is to be aimed. It is always an advantage to be able to use any kind of attack from any formation, for then the formation itself does not indicate the style of play to be used. It is as bad to use only certain plays

from certain formations as it is to use only one play easily diagnosed. Formation play calls for greater agility on the part of the linemen, and it also requires that each man in the line know all of the signals perfectly. A veteran tackle or end should be almost, if not quite, as capable of changing places with the quarterback as any

of the back field men. It is machine-like precision on the part of the whole team that makes successful formations. Every man must know where he belongs before and after the shift, what he is to do while shifting and after getting into the new position, who is to carry the ball and where the play is to strike, and, lastly, he must

know how to act so as not to give the defense a tip on what is coming. The same names are used to designate the different positions as have always been employed, but the names mean little or nothing to the spectator nowadays excepting at the kick-off. Unless one knows a man by sight it is next to impossible to keep track of

him on the offense, while his defensive play may be that of some other position than was the offensive. So far as the backs and ends are concerned they might just as well be designated as backs, for the successful teams of the last few years have in almost every instance used the ends and backs interchangeably. Tackles,

guards and centers are tied down, as it were, by the rule regarding the cut of any of the "five centermen" to advance the ball. This, however, only affects them as regards their place with reference to the line of scrimmage and does not materially interfere with their carrying the ball. It might be said in all truth that "formation play is new football." Not but what formations were used in old football, but rather that their use in the new game is absolutely necessary. Formations formerly were the exception rather than the rule. In speaking of formations one naturally thinks only of the offensive formations, but the defensive ones are equally important even though not so intricate and spectacular. Defensive formations are more in the line of individual judgment than of team play. The defensive players must work together and must know without looking or being told what their fellows are doing, but the individuals themselves and good judgment are the best part of defensive formation play.

Every man on the defense should know all about offensive formations or else he cannot cope with them. The linemen should shift accordingly as the offense shifts and should trust the backs to take care of the open plays. Each man has his own work cut out for him and none can afford to try to help or coach another whom he cannot see. The men backing up the line may coach the forwards, but the forwards may not coach each other. The defense must of necessity be specialized while the offense is broad and general. The defense is split into two or three separate factions, according to the system used, and each faction takes care of a certain class of plays, while the offense at all times is free to use any style of play.

It may be misleading to speak of defensive formation play as such, for in fact good defensive play is nothing more nor less than knowing the weaknesses of offensive formations. Formation play is the whole thing in the present game, however, and only those teams which have solved the problem of quick shifting can succeed. To offset quick shifting on the part of the offensive team the defensive players must have a knowledge of the inherent strength and weaknesses of various formations. Use of this knowledge and proper physical qualifications are of course all important, for no amount of knowledge of formations will make up for a lack of physical ability.

Sir Thomas Lipton Says Everyone Should Take Up Yachting

SIR THOMAS LIPTON, who is now in this country on a visit that may or may not mean another visit with a yacht or two built for the purpose of capturing the America's cup, believes that there is something more than mere pleasure to be derived from the sport of yachting. He thinks it has a direct influence in building up the personnel of a nation's navy. According to Sir Thomas, the yachting game breeds in its followers a love for the sea that in turn has a sure effect on the spirit ruling the outships. The country that plays at yachting will work at war more effectively than one that does not, and that is one reason why his advice to young Americans is, "Take up yachting." If yachting were carried on more extensively in this country Sir Thomas' views on the subject lead to the conclusion that "the United States would have an even stronger navy than she has at the present time."

There is something of the Viking about Sir Thomas Lipton. He is a big man, to begin with, and then there is a certain carriage of his head and a peculiar set to his shoulders that always clings to men who possess more than a crossing acquaintance with the sea.

"I haven't yet come to any decision in regard to another race for the cup," he said in answer to a question, "but I am going to talk to some members of the New York Yacht club, and there may be something to say about the race in a few weeks. I know that the New York Yacht club will do what is right in the matter. They have always

UMPIRE BRENNAN DECLARES PITCHERS WIN FLAG

BILL BRENNAN, National league umpire, who officiated in the Sox-Cubs series in Chicago, having nothing to do, recently aired some of his views on the national game.

Airing views is an ordinary thing for people in the limelight to do, but Umpire Brennan's opinions emerge from the range of the commonplace and become interesting. He talked of baseball players, world's series, brother umpires and magnates and had a good word to say for all.

"You can talk all you want to about world's series," he declared, "but for real baseball those first two contests between the Cubs and the Sox were as pretty as any you would want to see. Nine full innings and twenty-eight men faced Walsh the first day. I haven't seen much American league pitching, but put me down as saying Ed Walsh's twirling against the Cubs was wonderful."

"But even at that I won't say he is the greatest of them all. For instance, I have never even seen Ford or Johnson work, and they say those two are the real stuff. Bender I have seen, and also Coombs, having worked last year in the world's series. I also saw Joe Wood last spring in a couple of games before the season opened. I think, on the whole, that the pitching of the two leagues stacks up about even. In the Nationals there are Mathewson and Marquard of New York and Nap Rucker of Brooklyn, not to mention Lavender of the Cubs, Hendrix of Pittsburgh and a few others."

"Pitching is always the thing that wins in a short series. This has been

said before, but it is so true that it will bear repeating. You may also add this—no team ever has won a pennant without at least one star, air tight pitcher. Look over the list in both leagues. There were Coombs and Bender with the Athletics, Mullin of Detroit, Brown of Chicago, Wood of Boston, Adams of Pittsburgh, Mathewson of New York and Ed Walsh of the Sox. In every pennant race of the last several years one or more pitchers have had to bear the brunt of the victory."

"Classifying the assets of a winning ball club in their order of merit, I should place an air tight pitcher first. Second comes the catcher. A high class man behind the bat is absolutely necessary to a winning team, and for substantiation let me point out Thomas

Meyers, King, Sullivan and Carrigan and, incidentally, Stange. All these men were of invaluable assistance in bringing the flags to their various clubs.

"Next comes a heavy hitting outfield, and I guess I need go no further than the Boston club of 1912 to show you just what I mean. The outfield has got to be one of the most important cogs in a modern baseball machine, and if it isn't there strong then goodby to pennant hopes.

"Offensively, of course, hitting is the most important feature, but of scarcely secondary importance is fast base running. McGraw's Giants realize the truth of this, and it is generally granted that their ability and daring on the bases have been their greatest asset throughout the past season."

New Squash Rules

THE rules committee of the National Squash association has made two radical changes in the playing code. Hereafter no faulty service can be played, nor can a man lose his service on fault. Arrangements also have been made for the season.

Regarding the changes, the privilege that an opponent heretofore has had of playing a faulty service if he chooses to has been eliminated by one of the amendments. All serves that fall out of the receiving court must be served over again, as in lawn tennis. Heretofore, also, if the service hit the side wall before the front wall a player lost his service entirely and had to take the defensive. Now he keeps his service, no matter where the ball strikes, unless a double fault is committed. Several other amendments passed concern

ambiguities in the code rather than actual changes in playing methods. It was announced that both the national championship and national handicap tournaments will be held in New York some time in January. The Princeton club will get one and the Heights Casino club the other, definite dates to be set at the second executive meeting. In preparation for handling the tournaments both the Princeton and Heights Casino clubs are enlarging their squash court area and setting back their overhanging balconies so as to meet the requirements of championship play.

The Metropolitan Interclub league tournament will be launched again with four teams in the race—Harvard club, Princeton club, Columbia club and Heights Casino club.

ERIC LEMMING OF SWEDEN, GREATEST OF ALL JAVELIN THROWERS

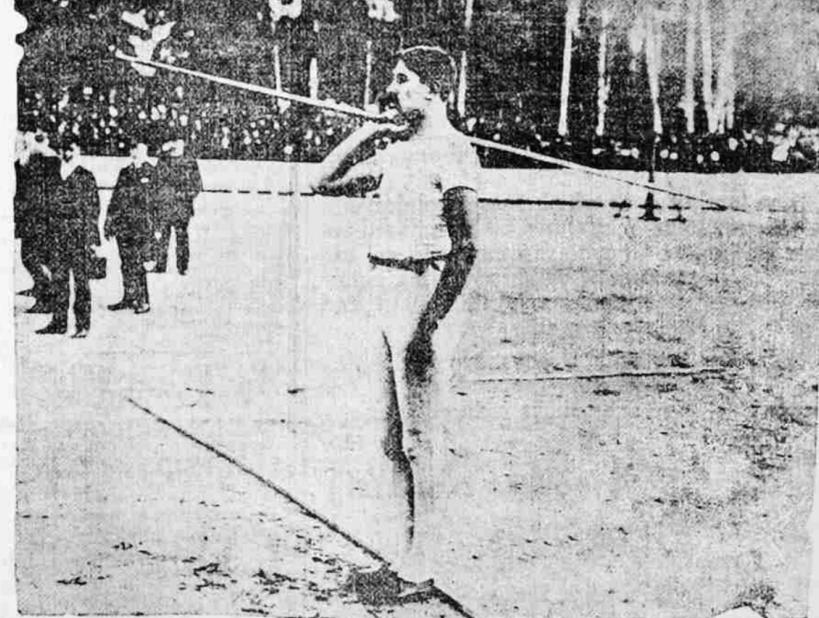


Lemming About to Throw the Javelin

A new world's record for throwing the javelin was established in Stockholm, Sweden, recently by the famous Swedish athlete, Eric Lemming. He hurled it 62.57 meters, beating the previous record of 61 meters, held by the Finn, J. Saaristo. Lemming won the javelin throw at the Olympic games in Stockholm last summer.

Flynn Yale's Latest Hero

"LEFTY" FLYNN of Yale is the latest hero to rise in the world of sport, and the prophets are already predicting that he will attain the fame of a Coy before he is done with football. A huge, awkward looking lad, Flynn seemed very raw in every detail of his play against West Point recently, but no man ever impressed the observers on his first appearance as strongly as this giant back.



Lemming Sizing Up Matters