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PUNTING IS LOST ART, SAYS A. A. STAGG



COACH STAGG AND NELSON NORGREN.

Kicking, particularly punting, is among the decadent arts of football. This, at least, is the opinion of Coach A. A. Stagg, who holds forth at the University of Chicago, and as he has seen kickers, good, bad and indifferent for a matter of thirty odd years, his words bear considerable part of authority on the subject, writes Lambert Sullivan in Chicago News. Stagg declares the players of the present day are not kickers like the heroes of bygone generations, because they have too little time to devote to practice at the art.

Importance Has Been Lessened. "Kicking is relatively a less important part of football now than it was in the early stages of the game," he declared. "When a yard or a foot was an important factor in determining the result of a game a good punter was a big share of a team's defensive strength. He is, of course, a factor now, but with rules which permit teams to rush the ball more easily than in days of old he is not so great a factor in the results. A team which has an inferior kicker can make up for this deficiency in other ways far more readily than it could in the old days.

"I remember when I played at Yale that the kickers, of the team were given thorough practice both morning and afternoon, and some of the more ambitious continued their training not only in season but daily throughout the year. The result of that work may easily be imagined; the punter knew every quarter inch of the pigskin and controlled the ball with an accuracy which would be regarded nowadays as positively uncanny. The great object then, as it is now, was to get the ball outside and well down the field. In those days the punters were able to tell almost the exact inch of the side line over which the ball would fall.

Richards Was a Star. "The star of kickers when I played at Yale was Gene Richards, who reached the height of his career in 1885. His work, as that of others of this period, was the result of this daily practice method and undoubtedly he was one of the wonders of the game at punting. In those days the only punt used was what was called the 'tumbler,' a kick seldom seen nowadays. In kicking this, the ball was held with its longitudinal axis at an angle of about 60 degrees to the ground and the kick was not straight, but was delivered with a sort of sideswipe with the foot. The result was what we used to call 'kicking the bottom out of the ball' and when in flight the oval turned twisters and flipflops without any apparent regularity in its turning.

"This resulted in an extremely mean ball for the catcher to handle and produced a greater amount of tumbling than the present-day spiral. It took a lot of work to become proficient in its use, however, which I believe is the principal reason it no longer is seen. The only fall harder to judge than the 'tumbler' is the 'foater,' a ball which seems to float on the wind, and which it is absolutely impossible to judge. This ball, however, is one of the freaks of the game and is the result of accident rather than design.

first spiral punt I ever saw was made by Clarence Herschberger. I was trying to reach Hershey the 'tumbler,' but he could not seem to get the hang of it. Instead of swinging his foot over for a sideswipe and hitting the ball on the inside of his instep, he drove his foot straight out and caught the ball on the outside of his instep, imparting a twisting motion to the ball. We all ascribed Hershey's inability to master the 'tumbler' to the fact that he was pigeon toed and I guess his impointed toes have had a great deal to do with influencing subsequent kicking history in the middle West.

"When I discovered that it was impossible to teach Hershey the tumbler method I let him go ahead in his own style, and I guess it's a lucky thing I did, for his punts won us many a game after that. At the same time Pat O'Dea started setting things afloat at Wisconsin with his kicking, and as both he and Hershey used the spiral, that kick has been the rule ever since, for, in addition to being easier to kick, it can be controlled more readily and is almost as difficult as the 'tumbler' to handle.

"Regarding Hershey and O'Dea, the rivalry between them was unique in the West. O'Dea probably would get better distance out of his efforts, but he was a slow kicker, and when an opponent hurried him he lost much of his effectiveness. O'Dea's longest kicks were against teams with weak ends while Herschberger had the faculty of kicking about the same against all opponents.

"Of the modern kickers, I think Nelson Norgren was the best I ever have seen. Norgren, while he was not a spicacular punter and on several occasions was outdistanced, had wonderful control over the oval. He was one of the few men who knew just where the ball was going and fortified with this knowledge, his ends seldom failed to nab the runner the minute the ball came down. In addition to this, he got his kicks off faster than anyone I have seen in years and put them so far up in the air that even a moderately fast pair of ends had no difficulty in getting down under them."

GIRL CADDIE IN FAVOR

British golf players—all above military age just now—are strong for the girl caddie. The club-carrying member of the opposite sex is a decided success. What she lacks in carrying clubs she gains by lack of irritating comment. Experienced and veteran golfers alike declare that the feminine caddie perhaps fails to take such a keen interest in the game as the boy caddie, but she doesn't attempt to take all the joy out of a perfectly played "four" by piping: "Mr. Soandso always does that hole in three." The girl caddie is doing the work on scores of British links while her brother is making quotations.

McGraw has tied a string to Jim Thorpe so often that the chief is beginning to resemble a department store parcel.

SOCIETY

Ed Geesen will motor to Seward over the week end.

Lita Ramey of York is the guest of Harriet Ramey, '18.

Emily Cox will spend the week end at her home in York.

Leonard Geesen will visit the Sigma Chi house this week end.

Olive Mitten of Tekamah, will spend the week end at her home.

Alpha Xi Delta entertained fifteen gentlemen friends at tea Sunday.

Mary Hughey, '21, will spend Saturday at her home in Nebraska City.

Lucile Gass, '17, is ill with tonsillitis. Her mother from Plattsmouth, is in the city, the guest of Mrs. Emma Holyoke.

The informal dance to be given this week is to be Saturday night instead of Friday. Ward's orchestra will furnish the music.

Kappa Alpha Theta will entertain at a homecoming tea Saturday, November 18, from 4 to 6 o'clock. The tea will be held at the chapter house at 1548 R street, and all University students and the faculty are invited. This is the second annual tea given by the sorority and the fact that everybody is invited has been strongly emphasized.

The College World

Clean Up Day

The senior women at the University of California have installed an annual clean-up day and the senior dorm is the object of their vigor. They will meet "with shovels, rakes, hoes, and other necessary equipment."—Ex.

Yale Gives Ambulance

Yale students have raised enough money to purchase an ambulance of the military type for Red Cross work in France. They are now trying to raise an additional fund so that they may offer a complete unit by Christmas. It is said that a Yale student will drive the car.—Ex.

Expecting a record attendance at the Yale-Harvard game this year, the football management has decided to erect 8,000 more seats in the Yale Bowl. The present seating capacity is 60,619 persons.—Ex.

Big Force

The Yale athletic association has engaged 1,096 men to take care of the crowds at the Yale-Harvard game this month. The men will be distributed as ushers, ticket sellers, guards and messengers.—Ex.

Honors Dead

A special commemoration service was held at Harvard to honor her nineteen students and graduates who had given their lives "somewhere in France." Every student in the university was expected to attend the services.—Ex.

Red shirts for the "Sophs" is the latest crinkle in university fashions. The following is a clipping from the University of Southern California "Trojan": "Stetson hats for the seniors, corduroy trousers for the juniors, green caps for the freshmen and red shirts

for the sophomores. It is up to the faculty now to wear a special design of footwear."—Ex.

Illinois

Men who are good artists will have a chance to go to the junior prom free, or if not dancers, to make a

little money on the side as rewards for the best poster advertising the prom have been offered to the students.—Ex.

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