

ROOSEVELT'S TENNIS PLAY

Characteristics of the President's Game on Courts.

MAKES HIS PARTNER DO WORK

Serves Up and Cuffs Ball with Big Stick—Less Light and Active Than is Ambassador Jusserand.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—The meetings of the tennis cabinet, which have been more or less interrupted by bad weather lately will soon be forced to submit to a long adjournment. The high screen of green canvas already strains at its moorings as the wintry wind whistles through the crescent shaped apartments with which the upper portion of the screen is ornamented.

There are two of these canvas walls, one at each end of the famous court just south of the new office wing of the White House. Fortunately for purposes of privacy, the White House lot at this point is very much higher than the street running between it and the State, War and Navy building.

The bank, topped with a thick hedge, helps to isolate the court, and the high green curtain effectively finishes the work. The screen at the opposite end and the wall of the office wing complete the enclosing of the court on three sides.

It is open to the south, though it is protected even in that direction by a hedge and by a burly policeman who takes a spellbound interest in the games. The court itself is paved with asphalt which looks pretty gritty. It is the black, coarse variety.

There are no chairs or benches; no room for them, in fact. The court is a strictly utilitarian affair without any frills whatever, with the exception of those crescent shaped holes with their carefully bound edges.

When the president comes on to play he looks like a big, self-satisfied boy. A very big boy, in fact, for although not as fat as he was he nevertheless makes a very lumpy looking figure.

He wears no hat, has on a heavy dark blue sweater of the peeler variety, ordinary dark trousers and black tennis shoes. Even when the other players playing with rolled up flannels and soft shirts with rolled up sleeves the president sticks to his sweater and his heavy trousers.

The reason for this is perhaps his desire further to reduce his weight by getting into a good perspiration. But if that is the reason the wonder is that he doesn't play a more active game.

If he really wants to perspire under his heavy clothing let him do as M. Jusserand does. The latter dances nimbly about the court, covering about ten miles to the president's one.

At the same time the president, though a rather ponderous player, seems to keep up his end of the game. He gets most of the balls that come his way, though if he were to try singles it might be a very different story.

When his partner is serving the president stands too close to the net for so stationary a player as he is. Ball after ball goes by him. The other fellow in the back court, chugging, from side to side, does all the work.

At least he does the lion's share of it, although when a stray ball does chance to come near enough for the president to get it the latter shows a very valuable trait in a net player. He is cool enough to make use of his position in placing the ball for a difficult return.

His play is not at all free. He rarely uses a shoulder swing. His arm works almost entirely from the elbow.

The whole impression one has in watching him is one of tightness, of concentration. While the ball is in play his muscles seem to be screwed together. He bunches his shoulders, crouches his knees, sticks his head forward.

He looks like a great animal crouched for an attack. And when the ball comes near him he gives it a sort of cuff with his racket, the motion being made without releasing the tightness of his attitude.

When the ball is no longer in play he strengthens up, throws back his head, and with chest out, chin in, tramps solidly across to the other side and tightens up for the next ball.

His own serve is unlike that of any other member of the tennis cabinet. He attempts no overhead work, no cuts or drops or fancy business of any description. He holds his racket above his head in exact position for striking the ball a straight, hard blow.

The ball itself he holds right against the racket. For several seconds he stands absolutely motionless, with his eyes fixed on the ball, and then, smack! he hits the ball one of those hard, short, straight blows.

He makes comparatively few false serves. He does not take advantage, as most players do, of the first try by attempting to get a difficult and hazardous shot over the net. Sometimes he serves an entire game without making use of the second try at any one serve.

His serve should not be very hard to return. The balls are swift but they are straight, and owing to the position of the racket so long before hitting the ball, which meantime is also right in position, a shrewd player ought to be able to tell just where to expect it.

tween them is a large social room. At either end of this room is a huge fireplace, in white marble, and the furnishings of the room are in keeping with the fireplaces. One of the pleasing features of the new building is a series of balconies along the first and second stories, from which guests of the club may view the rowing on the river to the best advantage.

Harvard has a system for securing rowing material which is undoubtedly the best used in American colleges today. When Coach Wray suggested last year that each of the college dormitories organize a crew of its own to compete against other dormitory crews in a fall regatta the idea was received with enthusiasm. Last year's dormitory day, or bumping day, as it is sometimes called from the fact that some of the events are bumping matches, was a great success. It gave a great number of the university students a chance to participate in events where they had some show of winning, and few who had any interest at all in aquatic missed the opportunity.

As soon as the term opened this year the organization of the dormitory crews was taken up just as enthusiastically as foot ball was begun on Soldiers' field. Indeed, the enthusiasm in rowing is so keen at present that it is a question whether rowing has or has not supplanted foot ball in the hearts of the Harvard students.

During the fall the fifteen dormitories housing Harvard students turned out ten crews. Each crew takes the name of its dormitory, and the following reported for training at the new boat house every afternoon: Russell, Hollis-Stoughton, Matthews, Grays, Randolph, Weld, Holyoke, Westmore, Craig-Waverly and College House. The completion of the new boat house means a new epoch in Harvard rowing. The Weld house has become the home of the dormitory crews, a source of rowing material which was unknown before the new-house was a certainty, as it would be impossible to have the dormitory crews and the varsity and freshmen eights train from the same house. Coach Wray confines his attention to the varsity and freshmen squads, which he trains from the Newell boat house. The dormitory crews are under the direction of Coaches Brown and Stephenson.

FORWARD PASS BOON TO GAME

(Continued from Page One.)

are necessary. They claim that the big contests this fall proved conclusively that in its principal features the revised game is greatly superior to the old.

Before the Yale-Princeton game, however, certain prominent coaches were of the opinion that four downs for ten yards would be better than three, and that the scoring value of a drop kick should be decreased from four points to two or three points. Some coaches even suggested that the fumble under certain circumstances should not result in loss of the ball. After the big New Haven contest the reformers saw that a good test, with a good attack did not find three downs for ten yards too great a handicap. They beheld other things, too, which placed the forward pass and inside kick outside the realm of mere chance.

Yale and Princeton showed the foot ball world that careful blending of the open game with compact line plays and so-called "old foot ball" was the solution of the problem of attack which had been considered seriously balked by many students of the game.

It is almost certain that several suggestions will be made to the rules committee by coaches who detected certain slight weaknesses in the code, under unusual conditions. If it is found necessary to use the blue pencil in the rule book here and there, the playing code next season will be found more comprehensive in detail. All the big features are likely to remain just as they are, and that is what the spectator wants to see. The new game has proved its worth as a splendid test for the players and a great spectacle for the cheering thousands in the stands.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 14.—Walter Camp is not for the abolishment of the forward pass in foot ball, as was stated in some quarters, but he is inclined to the belief that the present rule is one by which the penalty of loss of the ball is changed to a loss of fifteen yards for an incomplete pass, in the first two downs, has resulted in too loose a style of play.

In 1906, whenever the forward pass was tried and failed, the side passing the ball lost it on the spot where the pass was made. In the winter of 1906-07 the rule makers found so much talk in the air about the forward pass and heard so much agitation for the open and yet more open game, that the more conservative element in the committee acceded to the suggestions of the impatient radicals, and motioned the penalty on the pass, so that two attempts could be made to succeed with the play before the ball should be lost.

The result has been, as Mr. Camp suggested, that eleven not properly coached in any systematic method of play, and being hard pressed to gain a little advantage, have got in the habit of throwing the ball promiscuously around the field, hoping that some lucky turn of the foot ball wheel will give them yards enough to hold the ball on downs. This is not foot ball and it is this practice that Mr. Camp seeks to eliminate from the game, and the forward pass. Indications are plentiful that Mr. Camp will be supported by more than one college man of authority when the rules committee meets for its next annual session.

NEW RACE FOR VANDERBILT CUP

Racing Board of American Automobile Association Makes Plans. NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—At a meeting of the executive committee of the racing board of the American Automobile association a resolution was adopted to effect the William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., cup commission promote a race for the William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., cup during 1908. The date of competition, the entry blank, the rules governing the competition, the form of declaration, and the course will be announced by the commission by July 1, 1908.

Competition for this cup under the terms of the deed of gift is open only to clubs that are recognized by or affiliated with the American Automobile association, or to clubs likewise related to the Automobile club of France, and not more than ten cars can represent any one competing country. No car shall be allowed to compete for this cup, whose weight shall exceed 1,500 kilos, or 2,624 pounds, instead of 1,000 kilos, or 2,204 pounds, as heretofore, and must carry two persons seated side by side, whose weight must not be less than 352 pounds each. Each car must be manufactured in its entirety in the country, which it represents.

The club winning the trophy is obligated to deposit with the American Automobile association a bond of not less than \$5,000 for the safety of the cup, and the name of the winner each year is to be inscribed on same, together with the location of the race, date, distance, etc. The entry fee will be \$1,000 for each car, which covers the elimination and final events, and entries received after the closing date of September 1, 1908, and before October 1, 1908, will be doubled, making the fee \$2,000. No entries will be received after October 1, 1908. The race shall be for not less than 250 miles, nor more than 300 miles.

MAT KEEPS MEN IN YOUTH

Wrestlers Grow Old in Years, but Retain Vigor and Skill.

MANY EXAMPLES ARE AT HAND

Farmer Burns Tells How Athletes Should Live and Cites His Own Case as an Example.

From that immortal night when the angel got the hiplock on Jacob and sent him to the mat with a withered thigh, wrestling has been one of the greatest of sports. It is one strenuous game at which men may play with all their might and skill and beat out Father Time at the finish. Base ball is the greatest of games and sober men may play it until the sun of their lives begins to lower beyond the meridian, but not many of them (compared with the number of those who are engaged in it professionally) do. Prize fighting winds up a man in a comparatively short time. And in most sports making exacting demands on strength and endurance men give out early. But in wrestling it is only necessary to consult the records to see that men who are temperate and careful in their mode of living often reach into the fifties and still are as good as ever on the mat.

Wrestlers will tell you that the reason why they are able to perpetuate their youthful vigor is that their profession brings into equal play all the muscles of their bodies, that it develops none abnormally beyond the others, but that all are given the same vigorous exercise and brought up to the highest possible stage of development. They will also tell you that the mode of living they must pursue in order to succeed in their work will necessarily keep their bodies young and strong and healthy.

Farmer Burns a Prodigy. Martin Burns, or as he is better known, Farmer Burns, is regarded as a prodigy, because at nearly 50 he is still the best man on the mat for his weight or anywhere near his weight. Only a few days ago, Prof. M. J. Dwyer, one of the best known wrestlers in the country, made the assertion in the office of The Bee that Farmer Burns was in a class by himself; that he was the best man for his weight who ever entered the arena, and that he was as good today as he was ten years ago and would continue to hold his own for years to come. This is the recognized view of wrestlers. It is the view of Frank Gotch, champion. Burns' life furnishes one of the best illustrations of longevity among wrestlers who have observed sober habits. He is even eccentric in his mode of living. Here is the interesting way he puts his own case:

"I never drink milk, coffee, tea or liquor of any kind; never drink anything but water. Water is the drink nature gave us and I take it nature didn't intend for us to drink anything else. Some of my friends don't agree with me that milk is bad to drink. Well, sometimes a man is headed inside and out, and he takes a drink of cold milk. That tends to sour in his stomach. I don't smoke or chew. I

live out of doors, on my farm. I play with my boys, I play base ball with the home team and keep young with all sorts of sports. I don't swear, because swearing excites a man and I avoid all excitement. When I go to a town to wrestle I get a room at an out-of-way hotel, where people can't find me and where they don't have telephones in my room. I don't read the yellow newspapers, because they have lies about murders and all sorts of wild things. Reading them excites a man's nerves and that's bad for him."

Burns is a great admirer of Frank Gotch, to whom he taught the game of wrestling; he thinks Gotch is the best man alive today, but he has a word of reproof for Gotch.

"Frank is a good boy and the best wrestler there is, but he won't last long. Frank's a popular fellow; everybody likes to meet him and talk with him. He's educated and he reads everything. When he goes to a town for a match he puts up at the best hotel, with a telephone in his room and where bellboys can be running in all the time with messages from admirers who want to see him. That's bad for Frank's nerves. A wrestler who lives as he ought is a man of peace, because his whole body is well poised and he always feels good."

List of Old-Timers. Here is a list of old-timers, prepared by some veteran sporting writer, with his introductory remarks:

- In there a force or magnetism—call it electricity—at work that benefits those engaged in this exercise?
The experienced wrestler thinks so, yet it is only dimly understood by him and not at all by the average man. Perhaps the ancient Greeks recognized this beneficial influence when they established wrestling schools, where children, both boys and girls, as young as 5 years of age, were taught. They considered wrestling the most artistic and skillful of all exercises. If no doubt contributed a vast share to their love for the beautiful in human form.
But I am getting away from my subject. It will interest some to know more of the American professional wrestlers of by-gone days, and as I have kept tab on them, I give their present age, whereabouts and style and weight at which they wrestled.
Paddy McLaughlin, 64 years, 200 pounds, collar-and-elbow wrestler; now railroad conductor in Michigan.
William Muldoon, 61 years, 212 pounds, Greco-Roman wrestler; director of sanitation at West.
Evan Lewis, 58 years, 155 pounds, catch-as-catch-can wrestler; farmer and storekeeper in Wisconsin.
Joe Acton, 59 years, 155 pounds, catch-as-catch-can wrestler; wine grower in California.
Tom Connors, 61 year, 150 pounds, catch-as-catch-can wrestler; icekeeper in England.
Edwin Bibby, 61 years, 148 pounds, catch-as-catch-can wrestler; ironworker in England.
Tom Cannon, 56 years, 200 pounds, Greco-Roman wrestler; still wrestling in Ireland.
Andre Christoff, 55 years, 135 pounds, catch-as-catch-can wrestler; tailor in Paris, France.
Theodore Bauer, 59 years, 165 pounds, catch-as-catch-can wrestler; hotel keeper, Long Island.
Martin ("Farmer") Burns, 48 years, 164 pounds, catch-as-catch-can wrestler; farmer in Iowa.
Greek George, 61 years, 155 pounds, Greco-Roman wrestler; Athens, Greece.
Jack Carkeek, 54 years, 158 pounds, mixed style wrestler; still wrestling in the middle west.
Duncan C. Ross, 55 years, 204 pounds, mixed style wrestler; stonecutter in England.
Captain Shields, 54 years, 210 pounds,

Greco-Roman wrestler; Melbourne, Australia.
Tom McMahon, 55 years, 155 pounds, catch-as-catch-can wrestler; gymnasium director in England.
Antonio Pieri, 55 years, 165 pounds, catch-as-catch-can wrestler; theatrical manager, England.
The good ones of twenty years ago (some of them amateurs) are Charles Wittmer, Ed Atherton, George Bapstid, Ernest Roerber, Harvey Parker, Max Luttbog, Frank Brendamore, Barney McFadden and Hugh Leonard.

YOST STILL LOYAL TO THE WEST

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 14.—"Hurry up" Yost, who had charge of the foot ball work of the Wolverines the past season, still refuses to accede that the east has anything on the west or the gridiron. Despite the fact that Pennsylvania has defeated his proteges two years running and the Indians outclassed both Minnesota and Chicago, he still claims that the west is every bit the equal of the east. Perhaps his argument has some base, as he says that the restrictions placed on the teams of the west far exceed any imposed upon the athletic squads of the institutions on the other side of Ohio. He further stated that if Minnesota, Chicago and Michigan were permitted to train in the same manner as any three college teams of the east the western universities would defeat those of the east.

He referred to the game between Michigan and the Carlisle Indians in 1901, when the former won by a score of 21 to 0 in two twenty minute halves. He stated that the year this feat was accomplished the Wolverines had been permitted to hold pre-season training and had the use of a training table as well as a logical schedule. Under the same conditions he claims that his team would defeat the red and blue aggregation, which this year took the measure of the westerners in a 6 to 9 match. He says that under the present foot ball system in the west the teams are not allowed to round into form, as they have to confine their playing season to five or seven games.

Notwithstanding the fact that the officers awarded the game to the east, Yost still claims that the east has been allowed. He says that it has been mathematically shown that such should have been the case. Besides these facts, he also thinks the plan of allowing the freshmen to participate in a schedule of their own is an advantage to the eastern teams. He stated that this gives them just a year's start over the west. But he seems to think the greatest strength of his argument lies in the fact of the longer schedule, which the east have and that the institutions there are permitted to support training tables. He says the results of the contests with the eastern teams show that what he has contended right along is correct—that they are laboring under a heavy handicap when working under the revised western conference rules.

ATHLETICS LIFT THE MORALS

This is Testimony of College Presidents Regarding Their Students.

QUAKERS TAKE THIS POSITION

Dr. Wadsworth of Bellevue Attributes the High Order of American Colleges to This Very Fact.

College athletics are not being condemned as they were two years ago when foot ball was running away with all other sports and charges and counter charges were made between the colleges and universities on the subject of professionalism. The colleges themselves were the first to see that something radical had to be done and they were not slow in doing it. Radical changes were made in the rules and all the colleges co-operated and a complete cleansing of the athletic atmosphere resulted, so that all colleges are now above suspicion, for no college would take the chance of having the finger of scorn pointed at it for having professionalism in its athletics.

President Guy W. Wadsworth of Bellevue college in responding to a toast at the banquet given last week by the students of Bellevue to the championship foot ball team of 1907, stated there was no comparison between the morals of the American and English colleges and those of the universities on the continent and he attributed this large difference to athletics.

"Athletics give the student body an opportunity to work off its surplus energy," said Dr. Wadsworth. "The students are impressed of the fairness in all things by the constant consideration of the fact that athletics must be conducted fair and open. No underhand work is countenanced. The students of American colleges interest themselves in the athletics of their schools and this occupies their time and attention in their leisure moments instead of the system which is in practice in European schools of carousing around beer gardens, which is, of course, demoralizing."

What President Sharpless Says. President Isaac Sharpless of Haverford college, the old Quaker institution, declared in an address to the students last week that during the last twenty-five years college morals have improved as the result of the development of athletics in his college. He maintained that foot ball had not usurped the functions of intellectuality, but appeared to have promoted them.

This declaration closely follows Swarthmore college's refusal of the \$1,000,000 bequest made with the proviso that athletics must be abolished there.

more strongly than that. I think we have gone through the season showing to the foot ball world that we are able to play reputable foot ball here; that we treat our opponents in a sportsmanlike way; that we play games on a clean and legal basis.

"It is also a satisfaction to me to note in looking over the marks of the foot ball men for the quarter, taking into account the eleven who began the game with Trinity, that only one of them had an average of less than 'C'; only one of them had an excess of cuts, and that was, I think, not due to foot ball. The captain of the team, who certainly did his duty in the field as captain, had an average of 'A' for the quarter, and he had no cuts at all."

"I think probably the foot ball players have lived a more hygienic life during the time they have played than many of the other students."

PASTIME A. C. INDOOR MEETING

January 27 at Madison Square with Thirteen Events. NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—The Pastime Athletic club has decided to hold its annual indoor meet in Madison Square Garden on January 27. A program of thirteen events has been decided upon and will include practically all the field and track events possible to be held in an indoor season. The three-mile and 600-yard runs, however, will be the features.

INSOMNIA
I have been using Cascarets for Insomnia, with the result that I have been able to sleep peacefully and comfortably. I can say that Cascarets have given me more sleep than I have ever enjoyed before. I can say that Cascarets are the only medicine I have ever used that has done me so much good.
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