

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

OMAHA, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1908.

JUDGMENTS

THE "open game" style of foot ball has been criticized, not vindicated. The season just closed is the fourth in which its rules have been enforced. The "open game" was designed to reduce the number of casualties to the minimum. It failed miserably. On the contrary, it has caused the number of deaths up to fourteen, and serious injuries to 15 in 1908. In no year since its adoption, except 1906, the first year, was the record of injuries so high. That year beat 1907 by 100. A style of play that kills fourteen young men in the very bloom of youth during the few weeks that a foot ball season lasts certainly cannot be held up as a vindication of anything. But the argument in defense is that with graduated skill these casualties will be minimized in number. The general answer to that is the record of the season. It was a record among college players, four in high schools and four "other" teams of the U. S. Fifteen injured sixty-two were college men, fifty high schools, sixteen athletes clubs and three "all others." The work should be done by each year, not by the larger institutions, but by the smaller state universities, where skill in foot ball is supposed to reach a high standard. On the other hand, though, the larger college teams had a very large share of these seriously injured. If the record suggests anything it is that the "open game," as compared with the "closed" game, is a failure to perform, is a dismal and degrading failure. Whether it is any better or any worse than the rules it superseded is not so much the question; the fact is there is still need for improvement along the lines that was aimed. Fourteen deaths, pending lives and 15 serious injuries are a high price to pay in a few weeks even to an excellent athletic sport as foot ball.

The reappointment of W. J. O'Brien to the office of deputy fish commissioner by Governor-elect Shalloberger has met with the hearty approval of the sportsmen of Omaha. To succeed the late Commissioner seems to have been a wise move in this case, for there is no doubt W. J. O'Brien, the present deputy fish commissioner, is one of the most expert fish culture men in the country. With a limited amount of money he has, year after year, increased the output of the Nebraska state fisheries, and has also year after year, increased the number of fish he has planted in Nebraska waters. Not only this, but he has shown wise judgment in the distribution of the fish, so that every part of the state has received some benefits from the magnificent fisheries which the state of Nebraska maintains at State House. Mr. O'Brien has also taken an especial interest in Cut Off lake, and year after year he has planted a large number of fish and has also encouraged the Omaha Rod and Gun club to protect the fish until at present Cut Off lake is a reputation as being one of the best trout fishing resorts in this section of the country.

President Murphy of the Cubs is organizing his forces to demand that the release this winter outlaw the spit ball and reduce the number of balls from four to three. His purpose is to increase batting. It is certain Murphy has a lot of supporters in the opposition to the spit ball, but the most of them will not go to the front with him for the simple reason that they have no hopes of success. As to the three-balls proposition, Mr. Murphy probably will find himself alone. On this matter of increasing batting, Norris O'Neill makes the novel suggestion that the ball be widened. Run them out six or eight feet, says O'Neill. He thinks that would make the batters hustle more and give the lovers of slugging less to complain of.

President Pulliam favors putting the lid on this Hal Chase fiasco. Second the motion. If ever a young lad needed a sound spanking that one does. He has committed the high crime of base ball contract jumping. He jumped his contract with the Highlanders for no better apparent cause than that things were not going to suit him. If President Pulliam of the National league, as a member of the national commission, is supported in his attitude toward this trouble-maker, Chase will get what he has deserved for two years, and if he is kept on the outside of the organized base ball forever, organized base ball will benefit thereby.

If the National and American leagues should yield to the demands of the American association and the Eastern league before the expiration of the contract at the end of 1909 it will be a vindication of Howard C. Getchell, the Jersey City lawyer, and George Tobias, who made such demands years ago. It will hold these disreputable gents up in the enviable light of being "years ahead of their time," or "Japs in advance of their contemporaries. But, say pal, that if you look awful big.

Getchell is quoted as saying he is thoroughly disgusted with Hackenschmidt's swindle of him in London. Other people became disgusted at Hack's swindle of him in America the night of April 2, 1908, over at Chicago.

The news that Manager Higgins of Des Moines has increased his seating capacity in all right, but the news that he had increased his field capacity would sound better. Little Sioux City. It is time these miniature grounds were abolished.

Suppose Murphy won on his three-ball proposition, where would he land Pfeiffer, Heilback and Lundgren. Their greatest trouble is to keep within the four-ball limit.

Another effect of the addition of Wichita and Topeka—the competing railroads will have a chance to compete. Of course they may arrange one of those gentlemen's agreements among themselves, however.

Suppose Murphy succeeded in outlawing the spit ball, where would Comiskey land? Bob Walsh and Smith use that and they would have to re-establish their reputery.

It is now practically settled that George Graham will be back on second base for Omaha next season. Fine!

Put it down now—War Sanders and Johnny Gooding will be back next year as the leavers of the lead.

President O'Neill's word for it—Waltz wings really and truly is out of the Western league. Thanks.

Does Ducky Holmes want A. M. Gilford to return to the Western league as an umpire.

Pa. House picks Furbush and Patterson to move than make good in fast company.

How would Shortstop Curhan look in an Omaha uniform? Blue-W.

NEW FOOTBALL HERE TO STAY

Experts Say Present Game Sets Style for Gridiron Future.

WHAT BIG COLLEGE TEAMS DID

Yale, Princeton, Harvard and the Rest in the East Have Developed Game to High Efficiency.

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—"The" Edwards, the famous foot ball umpire, says: "The new foot ball has come to stay, and in its further development next season it is not difficult to anticipate a much more finished and more efficient game than this year. Never in the history of foot ball has there been such a wide-spread season as that now drawing to a successful close. The new game has developed more of the defensive than offensive play, although it may not be said to have lost any of its possibilities as that ancient, old player, the 'open game' to which it is now being referred. It is not only a more finished and more efficient game, but it is a more interesting and more exciting game than ever before. The development of the new game has not shown the advance that would ordinarily be expected. Princeton, in the first half of the season, was a great credit to the exhibition of the new game, but hard, plugging play, with Yale as the leader, showed the Three Aces to defeat. The outside kick used by Princeton this year has been a great improvement over the same play of last season when Harlan worked the outside kick.

Hard on the Captain. The year has singularly been one of misfortune for 'Varsity captains. Burr of Harvard, Dillon of Princeton, and Barth of Yale were all unable to do the necessary amount of work owing to injuries. This year's effort is a great credit to the fact that the year's work was done by several of the teams who had had no such misfortune. Cutler of Harvard was one of the players who showed great good work and he has played a consistent game throughout the season. The Yale team, however, showed the Three Aces to defeat. The outside kick used by Princeton this year has been a great improvement over the same play of last season when Harlan worked the outside kick.

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His clothes wore TOO WELL. The other day Blank came into Dresher the the Tailor's shop after an absence of two years. "Well," said the busy tailor, "did they kidnap you, or haven't I treated you right?" "Neither," said Blank, "that last suit actually wore too well; it refused to grow old."

—And yet the suit was of the kind Dresher makes every day in the year. The best he knows how—honest workmanship and materials throughout—that's the secret of such lasting style. —Dresher distinction and wear as low as \$25.

Big Coaches All to the Bad. Season Does Not Reflect Much Credit on Any.

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—Carefully considering the results of the last foot ball season, they do not appear as a whole, to have added very largely to the laurels which may be supposed to surround foot ball coaches in the east. In the first place, they have not made any immediate progress with new foot ball. They have not proved that they are resourceful enough to develop a better strategy than their predecessors, and in some instances they have not done as well with the material which they have had at hand as the coaches did in 1907.

While they may realize that there are possibilities in the game which are beyond its present development, they have been backward in attempting to make the most of them. In many instances they have not varied their teaching from that of the orthodox foot ball of four years ago, and there has been a stupidity connected with their field results, which, if the other team were not equally stupid in its inception of the sport, would have resulted in overwhelming defeat in more quarters than one.

It is not that the foot ball made strides which counted for something. There was never greater enthusiasm displayed than that of spectators when they began to see that the game was about. This year it would appear that almost every coach in the east had fallen back to that deplorable state of mind which Walter Camp described as "mental paralysis for fear that the team would lose the ball." The coaches this year, if they have attempted to teach their eleven any new plays, seem also to have impaired them with a certain element of fear, so that if they try a forward pass and it does not happen to work, or an outside kick and it fails of its purpose, the quarterback immediately ceases his open strategy and is content to get the ball back and try to make ten yards through the line, and in the event of its failure, to punt.

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Timely Tips for Automobile Owners and Drivers. Kansas City is to have a taxicab string of three stories, costing \$250,000. A chauffeur club has been formed in Milwaukee, Wis., with twenty charter members. Handsome quarters in a leading hotel have been secured by the automobile club of Chicago, Ill. The Rhode Island authorities insist that the number plate attached to the rear of cars should not swing.

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Deright Automobile Co. Eighteenth and Farnam. Money Made Buying those Suits, Raincoats and Overcoats. Sold up to \$30, at \$15. REASON—Small lots and stocks we wish to close.

VOLLMER'S Expert Clothes Fitters 107 South 16th Street. WE FIT ALL SIZES.

Advertisement for Deright Automobile Co. featuring a silhouette of a man in a suit and the text: "Money Made Buying those Suits, Raincoats and Overcoats. Sold up to \$30, at \$15. REASON—Small lots and stocks we wish to close. VOLLMER'S Expert Clothes Fitters 107 South 16th Street. WE FIT ALL SIZES."

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