

JUDGMENTS

It should not be necessary to enact a law forbidding the manager to discuss prior to time of delivery the names of players sold or traded. The evil of such a shiftless custom should be so impressive by this time that managers, for self-protection, would refrain from it.

Wagner and Cobb compared in the recent world's series about as well as two such stars under the same conditions might be expected to compare. Wagner batted .376, Cobb .321. Wagner stole six bases, Cobb the marvel of speed, two. The comparison is all against Cobb, and many fans have concluded on the basis of the showing the two men made that Wagner is far and away the better ball player.

What does the winter hold for the Western league? That is a question of great interest. If the invasion of the part of some American association teams should transpire by spring then the fate of the Western is a reorganization; if this invasion is delayed a year the circuit out here will, in all probability, remain intact.

A Philadelphia writer asserts that had the Athletics won the American league pennant they would have defeated the Pirates for the championship. The same writer contends that Detroit has not been the strongest American league team in any of the three years it has won the pennant.

One of the big events of the week was Comiskey's appointment of Hugh Duffey as manager of the White Sox. It will be highly appropriate for the Old Roman to dedicate that million-dollar park next spring with a pennant-winning team.

Clarke is looking for another first baseman since Abstein fell down in the world's series. Somehow, we couldn't help feeling a little shaky about that name. By the way, Pittsburgh hasn't had a permanent first baseman since Kinty Branchfield left. It would do well to get Kane back.

By Cobb's modesty in expressing the wish that he may some day be equal to Wagner, we have nothing to do with the wish he is said to have expressed to President Navin that he might be given a salary equal to Wagner's at the beginning of next season.

If they do get into the ring it should be understood that both Jeff and Mistah Johnson cease talking at least while the fight is in progress.

They say it's worth a man's life, almost, to mention the words, "Charley Adams," in a certain Michigan city.

Cob Murphy hasn't been expelled from professional baseball yet, but the world is getting better, just the same.

Still Messers. Jeffries and Johnson have not yet weighed in.

Omaha is ready to take its place in the American association.

VALUE OF COLLEGE FOOT BALL

Tenacious Hold the Sport Has on Players and Spectators Alike.

CRITICAL PERIOD OF THE GAME

Important Conference and Agreement in Winter of 1930-1931 at New Haven and What It Meant to the Game.

In the winter of 1929-1930, before an open fire at New Haven, with sleet and snow beating the windows and the wind howling a gale outside, three men sat thrashing out the never-falling subject of football strategy.

"That's true," said the captain. "We worked on other things so much that we were certainly weak in the cardinal principles." "I agree absolutely with that," said the adviser, "but I also believe that in the general system the possibilities of offense are not half exhausted and that a set of plays can be given a team that will simply annihilate the defense of the opponent."

"Do you really mean that?" "Certainly I do, and then it will be up to you to stand the gaff," as they say, and carry them through until they begin to have their effect. The first week they may work a little from their very novelty and because the men are interested. Then before the individual members of the team have had sufficient practice to make them complete every movement with precision, the defense will prove the stronger. The scrub will stop the plays or tangle them all up; the team will first lose confidence, then ambition, and finally you will find even your best players not in rebellion, desirous of dropping the plays and going back to the simple ones upon which they have been drilled in the past."

"But that is just what they cannot believe, and even you and your coach here will be ready to abandon the plays." "Not if you say they are good." "Well, if my judgment of pace and the present attitude of the players, I am sure the plays will come out all right, if you will keep at them to the end."

"It's a bargain then," said the graduate. "I'll be them out and give them to you." The winter passed and the spring and summer. Fall practice began, and the series of plays was put into effect. They were based entirely upon the theory that the opponents had been taught to play low and to discharge forward immediately upon the snap of the ball. The line of attack were so disposed as to make this very charge of each man in his line place him in such a position that except by tremendous effort he could not recover his balance so as to oppose effective resistance to the attack.

By the first of November great was the criticism of the team. It was "slow, painfully slow." A respectable end run was certainly out of the question. The back field, to use the expression of one of the coaches, was "slower than molasses in January." Finally the captain called up the graduate one evening and said that he thought they would have to put the full-back up at tackle again and get a faster, lighter man who could keep up pace enough to keep up with the rest of the backs.

On that evening a still further change was determined upon. The big full-back was such a factor in himself that the graduate urged an even greater hazard, but a better test of the plays. He suggested that another man, Dupes, should replace Hale for that game—a man not nearly so powerful, but one who knew the plays and would by the experience of a game fit himself to take the place of the full-back in the later championship games with Harvard and Princeton, should any injury incapacitate the regular man. This seemed indeed the wisest, but was finally accepted, and the two teams lined up.

From the very start the Yale team, with its new players, marched down the field through and over the bewildered opponents, six, eight, ten, a dozen yards at a down, until the coach of the Indians exclaimed:

"I cannot understand what the matter with my men. I never saw them so completely at sea."

The final score was 23 to 6, and the plays had "made good." The Princeton game was won 23 to 6, and the Harvard game was won 23 to 6, and within a year half the teams in the country were playing "kick-back" plays. In the game of that year Harvard played against Yale no fewer than twenty men. They were considerably heavier than the Yale men, and yet the majority of those who were taken out were not injured, but rather so exhausted by their efforts to meet these plays as to make it advisable to replace them with fresh men.

Such an incident of a football campaign may throw some light upon the reasons why the sport has acquired its tenacious hold upon players and spectators. History shows that the game of football has been severely criticized and denounced and even forbidden by law, but with singular insistence it continues to assert its vitality, and it never was more popular than in America today. East and west, north and south, it spreads. Whatever objections there may be to it—or, rather, to the abuse of it—the history of the sport would indicate that it is "here to stay," and this part of wisdom both of its advocates and its critics would seem to consist in endeavoring to eliminate the objectionable features.—Walter Camp in November Century.

HEAVIER TEAMS ARE BENEFITED

New Rule Gives Advantage to Team With Most Weight.

NEW YORK, Oct. 23.—For the first time in many years a new rule has been adopted in football that is to the advantage of the heavier team. All of the big eleven are jumping at the opportunity to put the ball in play on the twenty-five-yard line after a touchback, instead of being compelled to kick off as was required under the old rule. This play may be a little technical to the spectator, but it is of immense advantage to a team that under ordinary conditions has the upper hand while in possession of the ball.

Under the former rule after a touchback had been made the side making the touchback was required to bring the ball out to the twenty-five-yard line and kick it to their opponents. The new rule permits them to immediately put the ball in scrimmage if they desire. This gives the team a chance to keep possession of the ball until it has tried all the ways at its command of advancing it. If it fails it can still resort to the kick, which is a good as a kick-off from the twenty-five-yard line. In two of the games last Saturday the "Big Four" teams put the ball in play this way and carried it all the way across the field.

There is always danger in giving the ball to a fast squad of opponents on a kick. They are likely to bring the ball back out to the middle of the field and the goal will again be endangered. Under this new rule, however, a team can rush the ball out of danger, and then if it is desired punt it out of any kind of danger. All of the big college teams are delighted with this change in the rules. It somewhat lessens their growing fear of the former west teams who are becoming more of a menace every season.

If the rule makers intended to put a damper on drop kicking or goals from the field when they fixed the value of that kind of a goal at three points their plans have gone sadly awry. The most spectacular features of football of the former west are open play are the drop kick and the forward pass. The slight of a ball spinning from the field and through the goal posts gives the foot ball enthusiast the same thrill as does a home run in baseball with two out. The fact that it now takes two field goals to equal a touchdown has not dampened the ardor of the former west. It was a drop kick that saved Princeton from being blanked in the game with Fordham, and the Carlisle Indians have used the play repeatedly to pile up large scores.

For a while the Yale, Princeton and Harvard teams figured that they need not pay so much attention to the development of drop kickers as in the past, but in the last few days there has been a rush on the part of the coaches to dip up booters of class. All of a sudden they realized up at Harvard that it was a field goal that beat Yale last year.

Coach McCormick of Princeton figures, and very sensibly, too, that while a field goal will not beat a touchdown, the other team must have a touchdown to beat the kick. And touchdowns are not so easily made under the rule requiring that ten yards must be made in three downs.

Students to Support Crew.

NEW YORK, Oct. 23.—Savannah, instead of Marlin Springs may be the training quarters of the Giants next spring. At any rate, strong pressure is being brought by sporting men of the Georgia city to induce Manager McGraw to bring his aggregation of ball tossers to that city.

The plan has already been broached to McGraw by several Savannahites who are now here booming the project. Nick Corsh, one of the members of the Savannah club, is interested in the scheme.

The Savannah club, it is understood, is to provide itself with a model clubhouse for the next season, and is willing to offer McGraw the best of facilities should he consent to take his players there for the 1931 preliminary work.

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WITH THE COLLEGE ATHLETES

Doings in the Field of Sport in East and West.

INDIFFERENCE AT PRINCETON

Something About Charles Wilson, Princeton's New Track Coach, and Men He Will Have This Season.

The new track coach at Princeton, Charles H. Wilson, has begun his work there. Wilson succeeds such men as Walter Christie, the late Jim Robinson and Al Copeland in a place that is by no means easy to fill. Track sports at Princeton have not been successful at all for years, barring of course, the team of 1920, which was second in the intercollegiate games. Wherefore many changes in coaches, each in turn being taken up enthusiastically, subsequently to sever his connection with the place with no great feeling of loss on either side.

It need not be imagined that this is invariably the fault of the trainer. Some trainers might easily have known a little more of the conditions of the law tennis men, but they were willing to be taught by experience. There might have been a trifle more tact shown or a bit greater tendency toward conciliation or coaxing. The men who tried to build up track teams at Princeton did not fail because they wanted to. It was a matter of having and a pleasant situation if they could not show anything much better than a one man track team.

Not Enough Application. Furthermore, some of those men who do come out appear to feel that track and field proficiency can be gained all in one week. Husky foot ball men report a week before a meet, as an especial favor, and undertake to become first raters in that time. A well known weight thrower belonging to a club in this city—it was not Princeton, as will appear—went down to Princeton once or twice in the last two years to help coach. His impressions were something like these: "A big foot ball man, who hasn't trained a step since the fall, comes out to throw the hammer in the spring, and just because he has a lot of strength he and every one else around here will be impressed upon the team on right away and be throwing the hammer distances in no time. In fact, if he doesn't, the college will pronounce him a dud. Just because he has strength they think he should be doing in a week what John Flanagan has worked years to attain. That is the spirit there with the field men."

Wilson is much on the type of man that ought to make a good trainer for a college. He was himself an athlete around Chicago for some years and competed in almost everything. He wasn't a topnotcher as a performer, but it doesn't take a world's champion to make the best trainer. Wilson competed for the first Reginald Athletic association of Chicago. About eight years ago he quit the amateur side and took up professional training.

Wilson's Career. He had a good relay team of the first Reginald at the Pan-American games in Buffalo. After three seasons with the first Reginald, he took up work with the Central Young Men's Christian association of Chicago and after two seasons with those athletes he was engaged by the University of Illinois. After one year Purdue hired him, and he went to Lafayette for two seasons.

So Wilson, who is now only 23 years old, lean, keen-eyed and hardy looking, comes to Princeton with some experience even if not heralded as a world beater. Anyway, it isn't so much what he has done as what he will do that counts. Wilson looks as if he could do much. He has taken up work well at Princeton and there is enthusiasm over his coming.

Wilson was recommended to Princeton chiefly by R. E. Williams, the distance runner, who will be remembered, certainly by some Cornell and Columbia men. It was Williams who trimmed Berrie Gallagher of Cornell in 1926 in the Princeton-Cornell dual meet, only a week after the intercollegiate games in which Gallagher walked off with the two-mile race and Williams was third. It cost some Cornellians a bit of money when Williams revealed that result in the dual games. Columbia men will remember Bert Williams, because it was he who popped up seemingly from nowhere and defeated Chesley Marshall of Columbia in the intercollegiate mile in 1922, when the little Georgian looked to have the race won. If Williams' judgment of trainers is as good as his judgment of pace was, Princeton has a trainer who deserves seeking to the man and give him a chance to make good.

CLAY COURT TENNIS IN OMAHA
Tennis Experts Have at Last Assessed the Race to Recognition.

NEW YORK, Oct. 23.—In many ways it is evident that there is a growing disposition among lawn tennis players to become pioneers along lines which have heretofore been little explored or not penetrated at all. Among the followers of the sport the continuance of the lawn tennis prestige, class and control to a limited number of players in the east has appeared unfortunate. Yet this group of men by position of office and playing skill, had made themselves the dominant factors. It has heretofore been impossible to fairly align against them adequate reasons for changes, except insofar as their loose methods of upholding the rules and of enforcing tournament management were concerned.

But the players of the middle west have at last taken a stand which promises in some ways to change the lawn tennis man of this country. These players intend to hold an earth court national championship tournament next season. Two years ago they promulgated the same idea, but without success. Under able leadership, however, of such men as Dr. P. H. Hawk, now of the University of Illinois at Urbana, Ill.; Will M. Wood of the Omaha Field Club, Omaha, Neb., and Ralph Holterholt of the Ohio Lawn Tennis Association of Cincinnati, O., it is safe to predict that the plan of a national tournament upon the hard earth playing surfaces will surely be decided and under the sanction and direction of the United States National Lawn Tennis Association. It must be admitted that the appearance of the Californians among eastern lawn tennis players created a ripple that has stirred every follower of the courts throughout the country. Their performance awakened especially the middle west to the fact that it was quite possible and probable that among its clubs and courts were young players who needed but the inspiration to bring forth men approaching the skill, courage and hardihood of a McLaughlin or a Long.

They argued as they did two years ago that, whereas, it was impossible for many of their western players to move on to Newport and there experience the disheartening uncertainty of the difference between the earth playing surfaces and turf, it was quite possible for the situation to be reversed and the west or middle section of this broad country, where earth courts abound and where glass playing surfaces are a rarity, to hold a national championship of their own under reasonable circumstances and conditions which would be of material benefit to the game in every way.

As the time that the project was brought before the National association two years ago at its annual meeting of the Waldorf-Astoria, the idea was fairly well supported by argument, it being made evident that the request was quite within reasonable scope, because a national championship tournament was held upon turf, as at Newport, another well supported upon boards at the national indoor meeting on the Seventh Regiment Armory courts, and that whereas the greater part of the playing in this country was upon other surfaces than turf, it was quite reasonable to promulgate such a tournament. Frederick B. Alexander, the internationalist last year, who has always been regarded as the peer of all players upon the dirt courts, was in favor of this championship, and it was as he has been said, fairly well supported except by William A. Larned, William J. Clothier and a few others.

National Club Wins in Court.
NEW YORK, Oct. 23.—In the court of special sessions the trial of the case against the officers of the National Athletic club to test their right to hold sporting exhibitions for members of the club resulted in a victory for the Brooklyn organization. The club officials had no difficulty in proving that the National Athletic club was organized and incorporated twenty years ago, owned its own clubhouse, worth \$20,000; had a bona fide membership of over 300, and that it conducted its entertainments for its members only, and strictly according to law.

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