

SHOULD FOOTBALL BE ABOLISHED, IS QUESTION IN COLLEGE AND CLUB

PORTLAND YOUNGSTERS WHO ARE PLAYING ON JUNIOR FOOTBALL ELEVEN

FOOTBALL IN NEED OF REFORM

College Presidents and Other Leading Educators Favor Changes in Game.

POINT OUT THE ABUSES

Unless Brutality is Eliminated, Several Declare for Its Abolition. Others Believe the Game Can Be Saved.

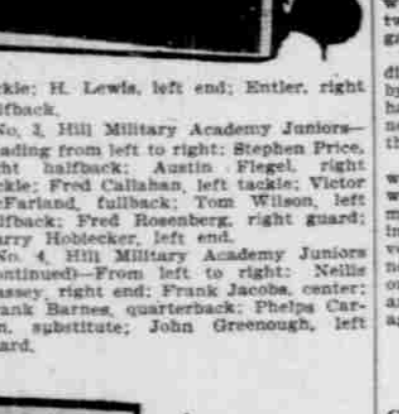


YOUTHFUL Americans take to football as naturally as a duckling does to water. The game is not confined to colleges and athletic clubs, but nearly every "gang" of youngsters in Portland, particularly if it is representative of the American boy, boasts of a football team, which they say is the best ever.

Out at the Multnomah Field, when there is a football game, you will see big-eyed, smiling boys watching with the deepest interest the plays of the veterans. They all long some day to be a member of the Multnomah team. That is their goal.

This same might be seen almost any afternoon on the vacant lots of Portland. The older boys will be playing, and around the sidelines will be grouped the still younger boys, longing and hoping for the day that they will have a chance to "make good" on this and that team.

From the age of 19 years up, the boys are



all equipped with football paraphernalia as complete as can be had, as can be had.

The accompanying pictures show some of the youthful football enthusiasts of Portland who are on as high a pedestal among their kind as "Chest" Murphy, "Davy" Jordan and others. The players follow:

No. 1, Ladd School—Reading from left to right: McKinney, left tackle; Brandt, center; Ireland, right tackle; Martin, right guard; Arnold, left guard; Walker, left end; McNeelan, right halfback; Sharp, fullback; Holden, quarterback; Perham, left halfback.

No. 2, Sunnyside—Top row, reading from left to right: Richmond, fullback; Shardin, center; Havahadi, left halfback; Caplain, right halfback; Henschel, left tackle; Hine, substitute. Lower row: Lambart, left guard; Camp, right guard; Winslow, right end; Lewis, right



characterized by good feeling and by freedom from serious accidents.

"The University of Oregon team has had courteous treatment in all of its games, and it has been very seldom that any member of the team has had to leave the field on account of serious injuries. The coach has not allowed men to remain on the squad who were not in every way physically fit. The team has not been in good luck even in the game of its own making, yet it has done very well in every way. The quality of the coaching in the Northwest is better than ever before, not only as to the style of the game but also as to the spirit of fairness and good sports in which it has been entered.

"At the University of Oregon, Coach Short's steady placing of the University first and the game second has done away with the intentional rough playing can be removed through right coaching and additional severity in penalizing for rough play.

"The spirit of the men must first be made right, and college men are, as a rule, clean enough and honorable enough to play a fair game when properly approached.

"I believe that the new rule suggested by some of the Eastern coaches—that no substitute should be allowed during the remainder of a half for a man put out of the game whose temper can be cooled on. Such a rule would compel the coaches not only to train against rough play, but also to very carefully pick men for the open tackling in the game.

"So far the game on the coast and in the Pacific Northwest has been free of fatal injuries. In none of the college games played in the Pacific Northwest has a player been fatally hurt, or permanently injured. This, however, has not kept those who have the interest of good, clean football at heart from joining with the Middle West and East in demanding a change in the game.

Frontier educators' views on the reform of the sport are given in the following symposium.

SYMPOSIUM ON FOOTBALL

The following questions were submitted to the presidents of the colleges and universities of the Pacific Northwest and the principals of the Portland High School and academies:

Are you in favor of abolishing football? How do you feel about the present rules of the game?

Do you believe that brutality can be eliminated from the game by revising the rules?

Can you suggest any other method of reform?

Unless the present rules governing football as it is played today are changed—changed so that the fatality list is reduced—football as it stands will certainly be abolished, not alone by the institutions of learning, but by the athletic clubs. The protest against the game, against the alarming increase in fatalities and permanent injuries resulting from the game, has created a furor that will not down. Coaches at first tried to sneer the protest down, but President Roosevelt raised his voice, and together with the clamor for a change in the game which has come from presidents of colleges and universities, prominent educators and graduates, it is clear that drastic reforms must follow.

Just how the game will be changed is not settled upon as yet, and in all probability it will take a football convention before the present rules are changed. Hardly two of the college presidents, coaches and old graduates who have voiced their opinions so far, agree as to the exact reforms that are sure to follow, but a meeting of delegates, it is believed, would be able to accomplish what is aimed at by President Roosevelt and others.

Just at present opinions are divided as to which department of the game causes the injuries. Some are of the opinion that players get hurt most often in the scrimmages, while others lay the blame to the deadly open tackling.

It is not clear whether the number of fatalities is not so much the presence of professionalism as it is the result of close study of the game. Time was when brawn and muscle were deemed upon entirely. Known students began to use their brains, and the result is that brains and brawn have joined hands. Tricks have been worked out, and as much now depends upon a captain to win these tricks and checkmate the plays even more tricky and by forming plans for breaking up the trick plays of the opposing team.

Years ago, tackles were taught to watch a runner's head and shoulders. It dawned upon them that the runner's head before a man can drive most the upper part of his body that he must do so with his feet, and from watching the shoulders and body, the tackles were taught to center the ball upon a runner's feet. The work of the tackle is not only to throw the runner with great force, but the hope of landing him hard is also to make him collide with the ground so hard that the ball is knocked out of his grasp. In the scrimmages, and, of course, in the pile-ups, is, perhaps, where most of the "dirty" work is done. In the heat of a scrimmage, it is a simple trick to force the ball into a formidable player, or land on him so hard with the knees that he is knocked out of commission. Other critics hold firmly that most of the injuries come in the open tackling of the game.

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SPORT HAS ITS ADVANTAGES

But President Campbell Suggests Valuable Reforms.

MONMOUTH, Or., Dec. 2.—(Special.)—President P. L. Campbell, of the University of Oregon, who is here for a brief visit, was seen relative to the attitude of the University of Oregon regarding football, and when asked, "Are you in favor of abolishing football?" said:

"I am not as yet in favor of abolishing football. All forms of athletics in college life need the stimulus of football. It is important that we seek the sober second thought about the merits and faults of the game. The football enthusiast would tend under these attacks to claim that there were no faults in the game; the 'reformer' at this time could imagine that the fate of the Nation depends on the abolition of this great factor of development."

Football is a rugged, rough game. It is played by men who are physically sound. From the records of the football season at almost any university, we may say that slight injuries are incident to the game, that serious injuries are possible, and that it is possible, I think only possible, for the player to be killed. The record of injuries, however, cited in the papers is rather largely made up of cases of accidents to young, immature players not properly trained. In some cases, however, the men are put in the proper physical condition, and are taught the game so that they understand it, and the spirit of the sportsman prevails with both teams, and the membership in the team is not unreasonably great. On account of the great merits of the game I should not be at all in favor of abolishing it. I think that the better the game may be played to us by three things:

In the first place, I think the rules may be modified in some respects to advantage, looking toward the elimination of danger,

FAVORS REFORMS IN GAME

President Kane Suggests Changes That Would Save Football.

By Thomas F. Kane, President University of Washington.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 1.—Under the impulse of the present agitation about the life and death of football, it is important that we seek the sober second thought about the merits and faults of the game. The football enthusiast would tend under these attacks to claim that there were no faults in the game; the "reformer" at this time could imagine that the fate of the Nation depends on the abolition of this great factor of development."

There are rules of the game that plainly forbid foul play. It is not clear why these rules are not enforced. I agree with the suggestion that if, in some way, the game could be made more open, and spectators might be more easily detect slugging and foul plays, and so put a stop to them. But it is doubtful if that can be done by any changes in the rules of the game.

The fact is that the brutality complained of results, but so much from the rules governing the game, as from the character of the players and the spirit that controls the game. Football, as now played, has almost ceased to be a sport. It has become a contest in which the players in the opposing teams are determined to win at any cost.

There is little doubt that most of the serious casualties which occur are not the result of accident so much as of a deliberate intention on the part of players to disable a powerful opponent and "put him out of the game. No change in the rules will prevent this.

The increasing prevalence of these objectionable features, I think, is due largely to the increasing professionalism that prevails among the players. The men are being paid for their services, either directly or by means of "special inducements." Large sums are being paid for coaching and special training; men of special ability are kept on the team year after year; the importance of maintaining a winning team overshadow all other college interests, and the members of the team are given to understand that they are engaged, not simply to play football, but to win games. The conditions of the game are worse this year than before because it has been carried farther towards professionalism than heretofore.

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I should not favor, however, radical changes in the rules which would change the essentials of the game.

In the second place, I think that the game, even with the present rules, could be made much as it ought to be by the work of the officials. The rules should be enforced strictly and severely and without any possible exceptions. If it were clearly understood that in every case of roughness or "slugging" the offending player would be lost to his team, the necessary roughness of the game could be rather easily eliminated. Penalties should be put on whenever deserved, and the officials should be well supported in such decisions.

In the third place, the colleges and universities should aim at the highest type of sportsmanlike spirit. This spirit in the colleges and universities in the Northwest is gaining rapidly. I think that it can be depended on to do its part toward making the game what it ought to be.

With these modifications and improvements, I think the game will continue to be highly useful to college life. It would be a distinct loss, as I see it, for the game to be abolished.

GAME HAS ITS BAD FEATURES

Eliminate Them or Abolish the Sport, Says President Ferrin.

By William X. Ferrin, President Pacific University.

FOREST GROVE, Or., Dec. 2.—(To the Editor.)—So far as the game of football is concerned among college students, it is a source of encouragement. I should not be in favor of abolishing it from college until a determined and concerted effort had been made to rid the game of its objectionable features as at present played. If this cannot be accomplished, then, in my judgment, football should not be given a place among college games.

I am not at all certain that any changes in the rules can be devised that will prevent brutality. It was generally expected that changes would be introduced this year, which would be brought about; but the objectionable features are more than ever in evidence, resulting in a greater number of casualties than in any previous seasons.

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and football is certain to go the same way unless something is done immediately to check this tendency.

There is "graft" in the management of football in the colleges and universities of the Pacific Coast, just as in those of the interior and the East, and it is producing the same effects. There is probably not a prominent college football team on the coast that is not maintained by "special inducements" offered to its members. For example, three men who were members of the football team in a Willamette Valley institution last year are this year prominent in the team of a college in Eastern Washington. No one believes that these men went from their homes in the Willamette Valley to enroll as students in the distant institution without "special inducements."

The most crying need of reform in football is not in the matter of any changes in the rules of the game, but in a complete stamping out of every trace of professionalism. Let us have it played as a sport, clean, manly and honorable. Let it be more simple in every way. Let there be less money spent upon coaches, and less time and effort upon special training for men for it. Of that sort of sport the colleges will never have too much.

glad to comply with the request of The Oregonian for a statement of the attitude of Whitman College with reference to the present widespread sentiment against football.

The faculty of this college do not desire to see the game of football abolished. It is the only one of the great sports open to college amateurs which has not been turned into an amusement enterprise, conducted by greedy managers for gate receipts, and associated with the worst forms of gambling and professionalism. Football is and always has been a game exclusively for college men. It has been guarded with great care from the entrance of professionalism. The same accusations which make it impossible for a man to be a member of a college football team would not be considered at all with reference to any other game.

The game itself has too many good features, and has done too much for individual students coming under our observation to be thrown aside without very serious consideration. The qualities which make a really good football man are not brute strength and disregard for the rights of others, but are really courage, college spirit, self-control and manliness. That these are developed by participation in the game is not denied by students in touch with bodies of students in schools where the game is played. A general proof of it was offered by the excellent showing in courage, resourcefulness and endurance made by those volunteers of the Spanish War of 1908, who

SAVE GAME IF POSSIBLE

But Abuses Must Be Eliminated, Writes Professor Bratton.

By W. A. Bratton, Chairman Faculty Athletic Committee, Whitman College, WALLA WALLA, Wash., Dec. 1—I am

VIEWS OF UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS AND OTHER EDUCATORS ON NEED OF FOOTBALL REFORM

PRESIDENT P. L. CAMPBELL, University of Oregon—Even rough football is probably preferable to the other alternative, disintegration. I think that all intentional rough playing can be removed through right coaching and additional severity in penalizing rough play. I believe that a rule requiring that no substitute should be allowed during the remainder of a half for a man put out of the game whose temper can be cooled on, is a good one. I also believe that the suggested modification of the rules requiring a gain of ten instead of five yards in three downs would be an improvement since it would open up the game minimizing the danger from mass plays and at the same time making it much more interesting to spectators.

WILLIAM X. FERRIN, President, Pacific University—Make a determined and concerted effort to rid football of its objectionable features; if this cannot be accomplished remove it from its place among college games. The most crying need of reform in football is not the matter of any changes in the rules, but a complete stamping out of every trace of professionalism.

THOMAS F. KANE, President University of Washington—Modify the rules to eliminate danger, let the officials enforce rules against roughness of playing, let the colleges and universities foster sportsmanlike spirit.

PROFESSOR W. C. HAWLEY, Willamette University—I am not in favor of the abolition of football, but believe the rules should be amended to make it a mere open game, with more running and kicking and less play in the mass. The authorities are not justified in allowing any game to become of such a nature as to have in it necessarily a probability of serious injury to the players.

W. A. BRATTON, Chairman Faculty Athletic Committee, Whitman College—The game has too many good features to be thrown aside. But it must be modified unless abuses are immediately eliminated. The worst are invertebrate officials, professional coaches, mass plays and the present style of charging and tackling.

A. C. NEWELL, Principal Newell River View Academy—Football develops manliness, strength and self-confidence. It is not too rough for boys. Make the game more open by compelling the quarterback to stand five feet behind the scrimmage and by abolishing interference. Interference today means slugging, jumping and diving at the man with the ball.

E. V. DAVIS, Principal Portland High School—I do not wish to encourage the abolition of the game for I believe it accomplishes much good. The roughness should be eliminated from the sport.

DR. J. W. HILL, Principal Hill Military Academy—I believe it would not be desirable to abolish football. Roughness can be partially overcome by changes in the rules. Endeavor should be made to imbue the boys with the spirit of sport for sport's sake.

S. R. JOHNSTON, Principal Portland Academy—Unless something is done toward amending the rules, I believe that the example of Columbia University in abolishing the game will be followed by a great number of colleges and academies throughout the United States.

ing any game to become of such a nature as to have in it necessarily a probability of serious injury to the players. Therefore I believe that the record of this year indicates the need of a more open game, in which generalship and alertness shall figure more conspicuously. If any other game could be devised that would arouse the same enthusiasm and have whatever beneficial features football has, it would be just as welcome.

BACK TO THE ENGLISH GAME

Professor Newill Says Interference Should Be Abolished.

Professor A. C. Newill, of Newill's Riverside Academy, expressed himself as follows, when asked as to his position relative to the agitation for the abolishment of football:

"I am absolutely against any proposition to abolish the game of football, for in its original form and intention the game has developed more manliness, strength and self-confidence in boys and knocked the more conceited airiness of the professional football player, which does more to put them in their right position more quickly and more prominently than any other sport. It also causes the yellow features to vanish, which is worth a great deal to any boy."

"It is my opinion that the game as played today is not too rough for boys, but it is too rough for men, inasmuch as it puts a premium on beef and iron rather than on brain and courage. For instance, a young man weighing less than 150 pounds is today practically debarred from obtaining a position on his college team."

"Now in my mind there are two ways in which the game can be made more open and faster:

"Firstly, by making the quarterback stand five feet behind the scrimmage.

"Secondly, by abolishing interference, which is the only radical change between the American and the English game."

"Slugging and holding are the causes of dirty plays, but too often overlooked by the officials. In my mind interference has been developed to an extent that never was so intended by the founders of the game."

"Interference originally meant to charge with your shoulders any obstacle in the way of the man with the ball. Today it means slugging, holding, jumping and diving at the man carrying the ball. I am very hopeful that college presidents will not combine to abolish football, for without it the manliness of an American boy and young man will surely be discouraged."

FOOTBALL IS VALUABLE

Change of Rules Will Overcome the Roughness, Is Dr. Hill's Opinion.

By Dr. J. W. Hill, Principal Hill Military Academy.

I hardly think that it would be desirable to abolish football in preparatory schools unless a more desirable game could be substituted for it. No game of the present day teaches the boy so many lessons that will be of use to him when he passes from school life into life's school. The boy who carries the ball is necessary will be of inestimable service to him in later years, and the subordinating of self for the welfare of the team as a whole will tend to make him a better citizen as well as a more useful one to the community in which he may live.

While the game as played at present is in many cases unnecessarily rough, this can be prevented by changes in the rules. Any tendency on the part of a player towards unnecessary roughness or unsportsmanlike conduct should be severely punished by the officials.

Profane language or uncomplimentary remarks concerning decisions of the officials should be sufficient cause for disqualification of the offending player.

But if there is to be any radical or permanent change in the things which have been tending to bring the game into disrepute, it must come from the players and not from the coaches. I am very hopeful that college presidents will endeavor to imbue our boys with the spirit of sport for sport's sake, and we will find that, no matter what the rules are, the game will become what it should be—a gentleman's game.

DANGEROUS TO LIFE AND LIMB

Unless Rules Are Amended, Game Is Doomed, Says Prof. Johnson.

"Am I in favor of abolishing football?" questioned Professor S. R. Johnston, one of the principals of the Portland Academy, in reply to a query as to his views last evening. "Well, I am and I am not. I do not wholly approve of the present method of playing the game, but cannot see any other way that will remedy the situation, for I am not well enough versed in the technicalities of the game. Just as long as our young men are as full of life and animal enthusiasm, I should like to figure out any means of preventing them from resenting any affront received in a contest of this kind, and until some day a game is played that will remedy the situation, I believe that unless some change is made in the technicalities of the game, it is bound to continue as it is.

"As I said before, I am not well enough acquainted with the technicalities of the game, to suggest any change in the present playing rules. I believe that unless some change is made toward amending the rules, the example of Columbia University in abolishing the game will be followed by a great number of colleges and academies throughout the United States."

What Sullivan Won.

The winner's share of the Gardner-Sullivan fight proved quite a nest egg. Mike "Twin" Sullivan certainly must have had a heavenly smile of his countenance when he walked into the bank to deposit his coin. In addition to saving the thousand dollars he had wagered as a side bet, he won Gardner's \$100 and handed down his total profits \$1,100.

Game Accomplishes Much Good, Is View of Principal Davis.

Principal T. T. Davis, of the Portland High School, when questioned regarding his views on the football question, said:

"I would say that I see no reason for roughness in the game, but as it does exist in many instances, some radical change in the present playing rules is essential to the cleanliness of the sport. I do not profess to know a great deal about the technicalities of the game, and therefore do not suggest any change in the present method of play. I do not wish to encourage the abolition of the game entirely, for I believe that it accomplishes much good, but there should be some remedy advanced that would tend to eliminate some of the roughness of the sport."

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Grass receipts	\$5,000
Divided as follows:	
Harry Valley Club	\$2,000
Mike "Twin" Sullivan	2,100
Whisky Gardner's \$100 and handed down side bet	75
Won by Sullivan	1,000
Total	\$6,900

PROFESSOR HAWLEY, of Willamette, suggests changes in the rules.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 2.—(Special.)—Professor W. C. Hawley, of Willamette University, who has always taken great interest in college athletics, gives the following opinion on the question whether the game of football should be abolished:

"I am not in favor of the abolition of football altogether without an attempt to amend the rules to make it a less hazardous game. Having played in a team three years myself, I realize that a training can be obtained which is useful to the young man in the preservation of his bodily health, the concentration of his energy to the accomplishment of a given purpose, and the training he gets in self-control. But the rules of the game should be so amended as to make it a more open game, with more running and kicking and less play in the mass. No other college game seems to be able to arouse the enthusiasm among the students that football does, and when this is directed to the development of a proper college spirit it increases the interest in and attention to the duties essentially devolving upon students as such. Students as a body do better work and receive greater benefit from their activities when the collegiate atmosphere is full of a generous spirit, and as a student body they have a community of interest. While a player I enjoyed the game, and think that under proper restrictions it exerts a beneficial influence in college life. I do think that the authorities are not justified in allowing