

A RECORD SEASON FOR FOOTBALL

Over 1,200 Games Scheduled by Colleges and Schools -- The Sensational Coy.

How the New Rules Will Affect the Game. A Change in Scoring, Etc.

By FREDERICK R. TOOMBS.



W. S. DUDLEY.

HAVING survived the fell designs of the multitudinous reformers, the bonny game of football is once more about to disport itself on the greensward.

It is not every form of sport that could put up with what football has undergone and yet survive. Talk about animal vivisection. Nothing to it. Football has literally been blown from the cannon's mouth of late years, and with infinite care the scattered pieces have been gathered up and assembled into something like their original entity, and, after all, only something like it.

However sincere may be the pessimistic grunts of the admirers of the old time game, with its bone crushing joys, they cannot dissipate the certainty that the new season, soon to open, will be one of tremendous interest and activity. While the first contest of more than a meager local interest will be played Saturday, Sept. 18, the season of 1909 can hardly be stated to open before Saturday, Sept. 25. On that date about twoscore elevens widely scattered over the country will awaken into action on the gridiron of

scrimmage line, in which space an end might stand and by assuming this position be not eligible in any event to receive a forward pass. This position is more than one foot back of the end of the scrimmage line and not a full yard back. No man occupying this position is eligible to receive a forward pass, the object of this rule being to make a man stand either up to the scrimmage line or a full yard back, where the official can readily see that he is not on the line.

A most vital change in the rules is that regarding scoring. For several seasons the advisability of reducing the value of a field goal has been discussed, and particularly the advisability of reducing the value of a kicked goal from placement. This year the matter took on form, and the value of a field goal was reduced from four points to three points, regardless of how the goal from the field might be scored.

Option as to a Kickout.

A second and possibly still more important change was the provision that a side having a kickout (kicking the ball out into play by a member of a team which has touched the ball down behind its own goal line) may have the option of taking the kick, as under the present rules, or having the ball down for a scrimmage on their twenty-five

therefore, equivalent to conceding the side which received the kickoff what is equivalent to catching the ball and running it out, with safe conduct, until they reach their twenty-five yard line. If they merely touch the ball back this touchback gives them this privilege.

As there have been some discussions from time to time as to players taking up the game for the first time and not knowing what the names of the positions mean, the rule book this year will have a definition of the positions and a designation of the players as ordinarily grouped.

In several games last year the referee blew his whistle to indicate a foul, sometimes inadvertently, and as the referee's whistle made the ball dead it was impossible for the offended side to take advantage of whatever run they made by refusing the penalty. For this reason the rules this year call particular attention to the fact that the referee should never under any circumstances blow his whistle to thus indicate a foul. However, if he should inadvertently do so the ball is still dead and play must stop.

One or two changes were made for the sake of making the penalties uniform, and it was suggested by the rule makers that the position of the referee should be behind the line of offense.

Coy the Greatest of Players.

There seems to be no one in sight at this time to challenge the supremacy of E. H. Coy of Yale during the gridiron campaign as the greatest player of the country. Coy is one of those rare instances of the ideal player. Physically and temperamentally he is the embodiment of the qualities needed in the all around player. Not only is he a fast and sturdy runner and on the defensive a sure tackler, but he is a quick thinking, a sure thinking and a far thinking general. Not only is he a swift dodger and a crushing, crashing line plunger, but he falls to lose his temper when his opponents calculate that most likely he will, for making a man lose his temper is part of the game of football. It was a true description that a New York football reporter wrote at the close of the Yale-Princeton game in the New Jersey town last November. He wrote, "Yale power defeated Princeton, and its name was Coy." This former Connecticut schoolboy, towheaded and demure, who used to kneel and humbly say his prayers at his mother's knee, has become the only old and original human bomb, and when he explodes, somebody's rush line is usually sprinkled over the distant geography.

Page, All Western End.

Another warrior of the pigskin trails who will loom big in the fore this year is H. Orville Page, the new captain of the University of Chicago eleven. He succeeds a man who made a wonderful record, Steffens, as also did the captain that went before the latter, Eckersall. Although Page puts his name in the middle, he is an exceptional end player. He was the choice of all the experts for an end position on the all western team of last season.

The Decline In Kicking.

To close observers of the game it is apparent that the kicking department has not been developed to its fullest possibilities of recent years. Today the names of the reliable drop kickers, place kickers or punters can be named on the fingers of one hand. Coy of Yale and Victor Kennard of Harvard have shown considerable ability in this line. It is true, but they do not touch the high water mark of the pigskin booting art. What the kickers will achieve this year is impossible to predict, and so far as the east is concerned probably Coy and Kennard will prove the leaders. Kennard, with the experience of last year to depend on, should, like Coy, show advanced ability in this direction.

The tendency is to develop line buckers in these later football days and to let the kicking end look pretty much after itself. But kicking ability can be made to show valuable results in the score columns if wisely directed, and coaches and captains will make a decided mistake if they continue in the shortsighted policy that in this respect has marked the immediate past.

The Latham Monoplane.

The Latham monoplane, of the type called Antoinette, is the invention of M. Levarasseur. Above its skilllike aluminum body are spread two oblong rings. The single propeller is situated in front of the main body, while directly below it is the motor, with a self condensing boiler. At the rear of the body is the pilot's seat, and behind him extend two vertical rudders for lateral movements and a horizontal tail for governing the altitude. The underframe of the skilllike body rests on two wheels, and in front of them is a runner intended to accelerate the leaving of the ground and to receive the first shock of landing.

Ragtime Annoys Mosquitoes.

Joss sticks and patent talcum powders have been discarded by the fair canoeists of the Charles river at Boston in favor of graphophones as a means of keeping mosquitoes and other insects at a distance. The liveliest music is selected, as experience has shown this to be the most efficacious in driving away the winged pests.

Ready For Fifty Cent Butter.

"Fifty cent butter before Christmas" is the way the Omaha creamerymen, who constitute the Nebraska butter combination, put it. Right now they have 50,000 pounds in cold storage, and more is going in daily. They have no hesitation in saying that the prices are to advance 25 per cent within the next few weeks.



FAMOUS FOOTBALL STARS WHO WILL BE FEATURES OF COMING SEASON.

play instead of practice and meet in officially scheduled contests. Among the teams that will play on this inaugural day are those of the universities of Pennsylvania, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota and Virginia and Sewanee university, St. Louis university, Holy Cross, Kentucky State, Ohio State, Carlisle and Brown.

Over 1,200 Games.

The fact that over 1,200 games are already scheduled to be played during the season of three months between teams of colleges, schools and other educational institutions is indicative of the importance of football to the sport lovers of the land. It is practically impossible to ascertain how many games will be played by athletic clubs, Y. M. C. A.'s, military organizations, etc.

Many changes are noted in the new rules, recently issued in Spalding's official football guide. While a large percentage of the alterations are of minor importance, others will have an important bearing on the technical side of the game, though not necessarily changing the appearance or form of the game as played last year. Therefore the changes in the rules will be more noticeable to the players than to the spectators.

The new members of the rules committee are Crawford Blagden of Harvard, Parke H. Davis of Princeton, W. A. Lambeth of Virginia and W. S. Langford of Trinity, New York. W. S. Dudley of Vanderbilt university, southern member of the rules committee, performed valuable services in the re-drafting of the regulations for this year.

Changes In the Rules.

The forward pass, although discussed at considerable length by the rules committee, was allowed to remain the same as last year, the only alteration of any kind being that the rules now make it clear and definite that there is a zone lying behind the

yard line. This, it is easy to see, is a very important change, and it provides a very great release to any team driven down into its own goal, particularly when there is a strong wind blowing against them. This change will permit a team that has been forced to make a touchback to have some chance to get out of their difficulties even if the wind is against them. Formerly they were forced to kick the ball out while the opponents stood waiting for it and ready to make a fair catch, or, falling in that, still to have a good chance at a drop kick.

The defensive side were forbidden to kick the ball out of bounds, and hence their helplessness, for even if the first try by the opponents failed to make a goal it put the ball across the goal line once more, and the defenders were in the same difficult position again. Now, under the new rule, in the first place, a side has all the advantages of kicking out as under the present rules and none of the disadvantages, for they may scrimmage the ball on the twenty-five yard line instead of taking the kickout.

That gives them a chance at the running game and an opportunity to work the ball out a little at least, with the possibility of considerable gain. Then, again, if held they can pass the ball back for a kick, and the kicker can kick the ball out of bounds, a play which is perfectly legitimate from a scrimmage, and thus render any attempt of the opponents to make a fair catch nil.

Aids Original Defensive Side.

The rule goes still further, too, if followed out to its legitimate conclusion. It has always been a good point for a team having a strong kicker to kick the ball across the goal line on the kick-off, because then the opponents lost their opportunity for a running game, being obliged to kick out, and hence the side having kicked off had also the first chance to show their running game. This provision is really,

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