

# FOOTBALL POINTERS FOR THE SPECTATOR

### Multnomah Club Coach Explains Some of the Puzzling Points of the Game

F. D. Overfield, who contributes the accompanying article to *The Oregonian*, is one of the best-known football players in the United States. He has the enviable distinction of having been chosen from the University of Pennsylvania two years in succession as a member of the All-American eleven, which selections are made each year after the close of the football season, and are taken from the various universities in the country. Overfield has learned the great college game thoroughly, having made a close study of all its many features, and his efforts as coach of the Multnomah team are expected to develop a winning club.

While football is unquestionably the most popular game under the heading of athletics, not only from the standpoint of attendance, considering the price of admission to the games, but also from the interest and enthusiasm displayed by the spectators, yet it is a well-known fact that no body of people, excepting lovers of music, possibly display such an interest and are at the same time as a class so ignorant of the thing in which they are interested. As a rule football spectators have little idea of the progress of the game and are at least to know how or why a particular

play is made or only an attempt to execute a play so often fails. If I could make the most simple principles of the game plain to the reading public who may pursue this article I should feel highly gratified. I would feel that, while conferring a favor upon those not acquainted with this manly sport, I would also be gaining friends for the game itself. In other words people who now condemn the game as rather harsh and cruel in some cases, would see the system that is employed by eleven well-trained athletes to carry the ball across the goal line of the opponents. The apparent roughness of the game would disappear in their eager attention following the progress of the play and the individual and combined efforts of the players in executing the play denoted by the signal given by the side advancing the ball. At the same time they would watch and give full credit to eleven men on the opposite side of the ball who may or may not prevent the execution of the play signalled. Suppose then we try to get at the foundation of the game from the viewpoint of a spectator, rather than as a pupil of the game.

We arrive in time to see two squads of men running from the club house to the field. Each squad dressed differently in order to aid the players to distinguish their opponents at the different stages of the game.

**Start of the Game.**  
The next step is for each squad to select the eleven men who shall begin the game for their respective sides, the captains expected. Each team then begins running off plays in order to keep warm,

ward off undue excitement or nervousness and become accustomed to handling the ball which is always new at the beginning of each game.

In the meantime the captains of the two teams have been called to the center of the field by the referee who flipped a coin, requesting one to call "heads or tails." The captain winning this toss has the privilege of choosing the goal at the end of the field which is favored by the wind, that is, the wind blowing towards the goal chosen. In such case the less fortunate captain brings his men to the center of the field and the game begins by one of his men kicking the ball at least ten yards into the half of the field occupied by the other side. The side kicking the ball lines up across the field, the heavy men in the center, the lighter men on either side and all start into the opponent's territory at the instant the ball is kicked with the exception of one player who remains a little back of the center of the field in order to get the ball in case the opponents immediately punt the ball upon obtaining it, instead of running it back as is the usual play.

The object of the men running down into the opponent's territory as soon as the ball is kicked is to reach the opponent who will attempt to catch the ball, and, if possible, throw him before he can carry the ball forward.

They have thus succeeded in placing the ball as far as possible away from their own goal, and the ball is then in possession of the opponent, who lines up for the advance of the ball.

We then come to the next formation of the players, a formation that is employed almost continually throughout the game, and, if understood, and the system em-



played in advancing the ball, the game will become very plain at once. The opponents now become the offensive players, and the center takes possession of the ball, the guards, tackles and ends taking their respective places to the right and left of the center. The quarterbacks stand immediately behind the center; the two halfbacks and the fullback still in the rear of the quarterback.

**How Signals Are Given.**  
It is at this point that we begin to hear the "4-11-44's." The quarterback usually gives the signals. He calls a number or set of numbers, which not only denote the player to carry the ball, but also the place where the player is to attempt to carry it. It further denotes that certain players are to make an opening between them for the man carrying the ball to go through, at the same time calling upon others either to precede or push him in his attempt to carry the ball forward.

At this point we may pause to note how absolutely important it is for each and every member of the team to know thoroughly every signal employed. No play can be executed properly without the aid of every man on the team, and a failure to know who is to carry the ball, or where it is to be carried, means that such a player not only fails to perform his important share of the work, but he nine times out of ten, prevents some one or more of his fellow-players from getting into the play.

The system employed in advancing the ball is next to be considered. This is a part of the game confusing in itself, in that the ball is passed backward by the center to the quarterback, and from him to some third player, as a rule, before it

begins its forward progress. This is a rule of the game, so the spectator sees the ball being passed backward, then the players grouping into different formations in order to protect and aid the player carrying the ball. Here we find many different styles and theories employed, emanating, however, in most instances from the style adopted and employed by Yale, Harvard, Pennsylvania and Princeton. It is essential for the spectator to know the number of attempts or downs allowed to make five yards in advancing the ball. If some limit were not required, it will readily be seen that one team might hold possession of the ball indefinitely, provided no fumbling of the ball occurred.

So we find another arbitrary rule requiring the side in possession of the ball to make at least five yards in three attempts to carry the ball forward. In case this is not accomplished the ball goes to the opposite side.

**Why the Ball Is Kicked.**  
It is at this point we find a reason for kicking the ball during the progress of the game. Suppose the side in possession of the ball has made two attempts to advance the ball and gained but two yards. There remains but one more chance to make the remaining three yards in order to accomplish the five yards necessary to retain possession of the ball.

The fact that two attempts have resulted in but two yards gain makes the probability of gaining the necessary remaining three yards doubtful, so instead of making a doubtful attempt and allowing the other side the ball at that particular position of the field, the side having the ball decides to kick or punt the ball, thus sending it down the field some 20 to 60 yards. At the same time a chance exists that the other side may fail to handle or catch the ball securely, and the side punting may again obtain possession of the ball. It will be seen that punting has thus become a very important feature of the game, and a team that fails to have a man who is able to punt quickly and accurately is heavily handicapped.

In order to aid the referee and linesmen in determining whether a team has made five yards in advancing the ball, the field is marked off with white lines five yards apart and parallel to the goal lines. To eliminate so much mass play a new rule has been adopted, requiring six players to remain up to the line of the ball, and requiring the quarter-back or any other player who receives the ball direct from the center and attempts to advance it to cross the line of scrimmage at least five yards from the point from which it was kicked. Hence has arisen the necessity of marking the field with additional white lines five yards apart, beginning at the middle of the field and running parallel to the side lines. This enables the referee to tell at a glance whether the player advancing the ball on a direct pass from the center, has complied with the rule.

The points of the game have also been changed, the result of a touchdown, obtained by carrying the ball across the end line of the field, counting five points. Kicking the goal after such touchdown,

one point additional, making touchdown and goal six points.

A place kick or what is commonly known as the Princeton kick, is a goal kicked by one of the players holding the ball in position on the ground about 10 to 15 yards to the rear of the center (the ball being passed direct from the center) and the fullback kicking the ball. Such a place kick resulting in a goal counts four points.

Four points also results from a drop kick, which is a goal from the field, the fullback receiving the ball on a direct pass from the center, and dropping the ball to the ground, kicking it the instant it begins to rise on the ground.

The only other points to be scored in the game is a safety, which counts two points as formerly. A touchback and safety are very often confused. The former counts nothing, while the latter means two points. The touchback, with one exception, allows the side defending the goal to advance to their 25-yard line and there put the ball in play by a kick, such a kick or punt out, may be a drop kick, place kick or a punt.

The ball is put in play in exactly the same way after a safety has been scored. A touchback most always results when the side advancing the ball punts, and the ball either lands across the goal-line or, striking the ground, rolls across before it has been touched by a player defending the goal; or the ball, falling to go between the goal-posts in an attempt for goal, from a Princeton or place kick, or from a drop-kick.

It will thus be seen that in each case mentioned the impetus that sent the ball across the goal-line came from the side advancing the ball and not from the side defending the goal.

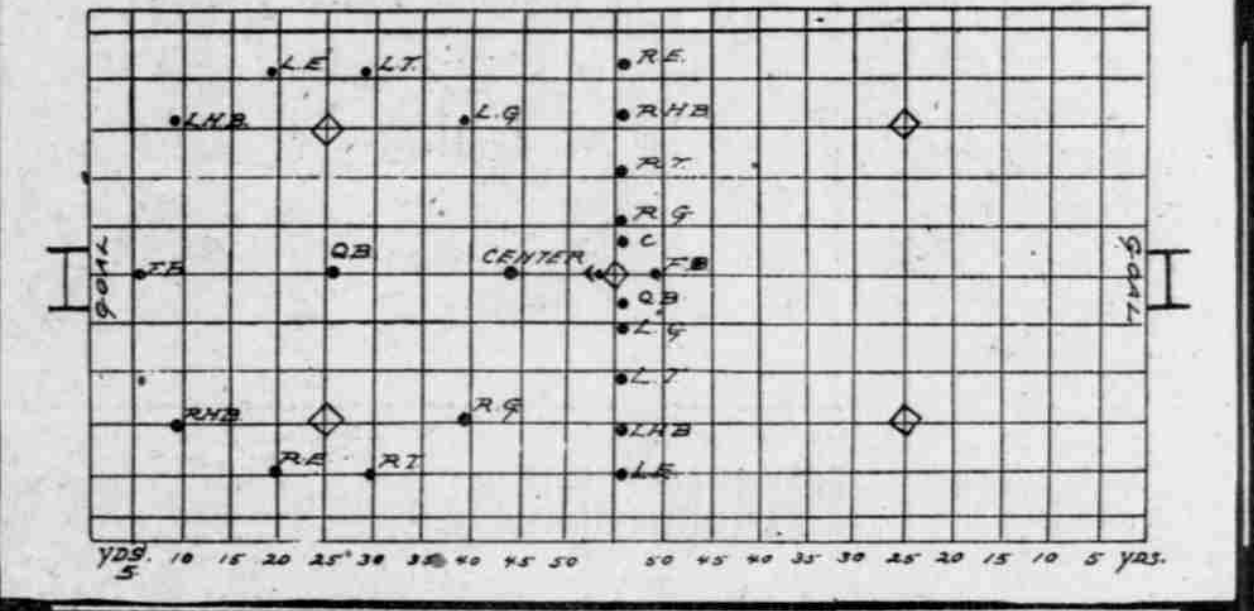


DIAGRAM OF KICK OFF AT THE BEGINNING OF A GAME, SHOWING THE POSITION OF THE PLAYERS

**MORE CHASE RACING**  
Horses of Hitchcock Stable Head Winning List.

**FURTHER CHANCE TO WIN**  
Single Barn Has More Than \$40,000 Won to Its Credit—Hylas Leads With \$23,000—Hunt Association's Prizes.

The racing for the chasers does not this season close with the Westchester meeting, as in former years, as the inaugural meeting of the United Hunt's Racing Association offers a still further opportunity for the cross-country horses to pay their way. But it is impossible that any owner will take the place of Thomas Hitchcock, Jr., at the head of the winning list. If all the \$100,000 money hung up for the chasers at Morris Park, Pimlico and Benning should be won by the stable now second on the list, Mr. Hitchcock would still be in the lead.

Horses from his barn have this season won considerably in excess of \$40,000—a stupendous sum for a stable-chase stable to win in this country. Mr. Hitchcock topped the previous high-water mark last season by more than \$10,000, yet his winnings then did not reach the \$40,000 mark, and this season's good showing is a record that speaks volumes for the growth of cross-country racing.

Mr. Hitchcock's best winner is Hylas, the 4-year-old unsexed son of Meddler and Forget. Hylas alone has won upward of \$23,000, or \$5000 more than was won by Foxhunter last year, and Hylas has been racing since the Benning meeting and has won several stakes. After winning a purse at Benning and Belmont Park, Hylas ran third in the Grand National, and would probably have won but for swerving badly in the stretch.

Mr. Hitchcock at the close of his 2-year-old form. His preparation for chasing, like that of Good and Plenty, was under Mr. Hitchcock's personal supervision. Here we will succeed the records show. Hylas retires for the season in good condition physically, and there is no reason to doubt that he will add to his already good record next season. He has succeeded as ever looked through a bridle, Hylas is one of the sort that will do only what he is made to do, but he is never beaten until the finish is reached.

Mr. Hitchcock's second best winner is Good and Plenty, who unfortunately had to be retired after the Belmont Park Spring meeting. At this meeting he won his only two starts, the New York steeplechase and the Whitney Memorial, winning a total of \$12,000.

"Cripples" Win Victories.  
While there has been an unusually large number of fast miles trotted and paced during the comparatively short racing season of the year, it is gratifying to note that a very small percentage of the season's best campaigners have gone wrong or "put on the shelf," so to speak. Compared with previous years, there has been but few cases of sickness, and I do not remember any prominent trotter or pacer that has been entirely incapacitated for any length of time on account of sickness.

Many horses that were reported lame or injured were seen to race the very next engagement they had.

The racing season was not advanced very far when several horses in the stable of Mr. Geser were reported as entirely out of the game, yet every one of the "cripples" has won some great victory since. Zephyr was declared as all in and unfit for further racing early in the season, yet she not only won several victories, but reduced her record to 2:07.4. Clarita W. and Walter Dietz were also supposed to be out, yet both have been raced, and the latter has only been retired during the past week if the reports are true. Bon Voyage was crippled and sent to Montana, yet he not only revived, but now stands as the season's champion 2-year-old colt trotter.

**CLEAR THE DECKS**  
Deal for Gans-Sullivan Bout Has Been Abandoned.

**WHY NEGRO IS UNPOPULAR**  
Batting Nelson Has Nice Revenue From Double Source, Hence Is Not Anxious for Any Fistic Engagements.

Morris Levy, of the Hayes Valley Club, of San Francisco, came to his senses last week and cancelled all negotiations toward matching Joe Gans with Mike (Twit) Sullivan. The colored boxer is manifestly so unpopular in San Francisco that any effort at putting him in there meets with a storm of protest. Al Herford, the oily manager of the negro, is responsible for much of the colored youth's unpopularity, for the promoter's ways are not to the liking of those interested in square sportsmanship. The cancellation of the Gans engagement, which is approved by the sports at San Francisco, leaves a date open for the arranging of a match that will prove popular.

Batting Nelson is on the road with his show troupe, and between covering the shekels accruing from this source and the returns from his share of the moving picture receipts, he is making enough to keep him in spending money for awhile, and is not anxious for a fight. This attitude of the champion leaves only two or three of the little fellows as possibilities.

The probable match is likely to be between Twit Sullivan and Jimmy Gardner, both of whom are clever little men, and should prove a popular card.

tion to the touchback, the impetus which causes the ball to pass beyond the goal-line is given by the side defending the goal.

First, when the ball is passed by one of the side defending the goal to another on the same side, and the ball is declared dead; second, when the ball is snapped or passed by the center to another of his side defending the goal, and the ball is declared dead; third, when a fumble has resulted just one of the side defending the goal and another of the same side falls on it behind the goal-line; fourth, when a kick has been blocked and a player of the side defending the goal gains possession of it behind his own goal-line and is declared dead—in this case the ball may have struck a player on the offensive side and bounded back over the goal-line, the impetus being construed as having come from the player who attempted to kick the ball; fifth, a safety may result when a player carrying the ball is forced behind his goal-line, provided the ball was not stopped in its progress, that is, not declared dead by the referee before the goal-line was crossed by the player carrying the ball. This is a technical example, and the impetus in such case is construed in a rather broad sense of the word, as having come from the pass of the ball from center, who, of course, must pass the ball from within the field, i. e., in front of the goal-line; sixth, when a side attempting to punt from behind their goal-line fail to punt the ball across the goal-line, but instead, the ball crosses the side-line. In this case, of necessity, the side-line is extended, a safety results; seventh, so when a player on the side having possession of the ball commits a foul which would give the other side the ball, at a point behind the goal line a safety is scored.

Under the new ruling, the ball is declared over the goal line if any part of it be once over or behind it.

**HOW WADDELL GOT HIS LOAN**  
Eccentric One Works Saloon Man for \$10 and Manager Makes Good.

"Think 'Rube' Waddell's crazy, eh? Well, you've got another thought," said "Billy" Rooks of the Utopia buffet, "he's the wisest crazy man you ever saw."

"When they were here on the other trip he came up here to my place and said: 'Bill, let me take \$2.' I was just starting in and wasn't long on change right then, so I told him I couldn't afford it, but he kept coaxing and I kissed the two good-by."

"An hour later back came the 'Rube' and he asked for \$5 more. I told him I wouldn't do it, and then he snatched off that watch chain which he got for playing with the 1902 pennant winners, and, throwing it on the bar, said: 'I guess that's worth the five all right.' I let him take it, and before the night was over he touched me for \$5 more, making \$10 that he was into me, but the charm was worth enough to make up for it."

"Then next day he didn't pitch, but had on his street clothes, and that night he was standing talking to Connie Mack in front of the hotel when Mack noticed the charm was gone and asked about it. 'I lost it at the park,' said Waddell. 'As I was going through that gate I felt something pull and when I looked it was gone. We all tried to find it, but somebody must have stuck it in his pocket.'"

"Connie" told the "Rube" to hurry over to a newspaper office and have a notice put in with a reward of \$10 for the charm, which he did, and then he came up to my place and said: 'Bill, you send your bartender down to Connie in the morning and tell him he found the charm at the park. He'll give you your \$10 back, and I'll have the charm and we'll all quit even.'"

"I sent the boy down and Connie was tickled to give him the \$10, and I was glad to get it. Crazy, eh? He's a long ways from being crazy."—Detroit Free Press.

the Beau Brummell of fighters, had a similar employment at the Hippodrome a few weeks ago. He, too, was without funds or friends. He lasted three days.

**JENKINS AFTER MAT MATCHES**  
American Wrestler Visits England and Hopes to Meet Hackenschmidt.

Tom Jenkins has arrived in England, and has made his presence known. The first thing the veteran grappler did was to send letters to the various newspapers challenging any wrestler in England, Ireland, Scotland or Wales. Jenkins received few encouraging responses. Jenkins told why he went to England.

"I have come," he said, "for the purpose of getting some matches. I trust I will be accommodated, for I hate to go home without a match. I have met and beaten most of the noted wrestlers in America. The only man who succeeded in taking my measure was Hackenschmidt, but I think that I can throw him, and I am going after the chance as soon as I face several other men in England who claim to be the best in their class."

"England, I have been told, appreciates the abilities of a first-class wrestler more than America does. That this is true I will not deny. A third-rate pugilist can make ten times more than a wrestler in America. This is strange, but true. But wrestlers have to work harder than pugilists. The public does not realize this, but it is so. A fighter, no matter how fast he labors, has an opportunity to rest between rounds. On the other hand, a wrestler has to keep moving all the time. There is no rest for him until between falls. A wrestler has to stand more punishment than a fighter. To be hated and mauled around a mat by a big strapping man, who once in a while flings all of his weight on you, is no pleasure. I have had a lot of experience in this respect, and ought to know."

"If I had my life over again and was bent on athletics I would by all means become a fighter. He can make dollars where the wrestler earns cents."

**STABLE FOR PRINCE OF WALES.**  
His Royal Highness Buys Good Brood Mares.

It is now positively known that the Prince of Wales will become a patron of the "sport of kings," says a London cable dispatch. Several race horses will carry his colors next year. His royal highness purchased three brood mares—Gold Piece, Lilly Palmer and Lusctous—last Summer, and turned them over to Lord Marcus Hereford to be kept in the latter's stud farm in Newmarket. The Prince of Wales will register his colors early in the Spring.

Lord Beechford is in his royal highness' plans and is acting as his agent in certain important matters relating to the turf. Less than two weeks ago he bought Cynosure, a colt by Cylleme-Nememsha, for \$100, and it is not thought that Lord Beechford was acting for anybody but the Prince of Wales. There have been several other purchases, and it is expected by turfmen that the Prince's colors will be carried by several colts next season.

King Edward has long been a patron of racing, which is the national sport of England, and is looked upon even by the clergy there with considerable more favor than in the United States.