

Grid Toll Still Too High; Search for Safety Rules to Continue

FORWARD PASSING MAY BE CHECKED BY NEW RULINGS

Increasing Number of Serious and Fatal Injuries 1932 Says Annual Report to Rule Makers

By ALAN GOULD, Associated Press Sports Editor.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Football with a "disconcerting" number of serious and fatal injuries for the second straight year, grapple for a solution of the problem of supplying greater safety for the boys who play the game, according to the annual report of the national rules committee.

The report, which was presented today to the convention of the National Collegiate Athletic Association by the committee secretary, William S. Langford, the report is for a suspension of judgment of the rules makers of the game and with coaches, officials and college leaders in their efforts to locate the remedies for the hazards and make the game as safe as is humanly possible.

Too Many Bases.

The report also decried the continued indiscriminate use of the forward pass to a point where new rules are needed to check it, dwell on accomplishments made under the changes of 1932, pointed out the lessons learned from economic depression and paid glowing tribute to the achievements of Edward K. Hall, the chairman, whose death this year was described as an "irreparable loss to football."

Though noting the impossibility of game involving so much physical contact, or eliminating accidents entirely, or by the modification of the rules alone, the report said the number of serious and fatal injuries which have been reported by the press as occurring during the season of 1932 is disconcerting at the moment, as it was confidently expected that the changes in rules which effected last February would result in a much lower average.

Although there has been a marked decrease from last season, the tally list as reported must be regarded as a problem of serious proportions.

Few College Fatalities.

From the preliminary information available it appears that by far the highest percentage of these accidents occurred in high school and sandlot games in direct ratio to the lack of attention exercised—and that but cases resulting fatally occurred in colleges holding membership in the association.

In the meantime, it is only fair judgment should be withheld until, after mature and deliberate consideration of the facts, proper solutions may be reached.

The report by Langford was prepared in advance of publication this week of the detailed analysis of 1932 football accidents, showing at least 32 deaths attributable directly to football on the sandlots, in the high schools and colleges. This compared with over 40 deaths in 1931.

The report charges, nevertheless, that an analysis of the 1931 accidents, made last winter, "showed that the so-called fatality list charged to football was more than 50 per cent misleading and inaccurate and that there were but 21 deaths which could be at all properly chargeable to the game, with three of these doubtful."

Mortality Rate Low.

Continuing, the report says: "It has been estimated that at least 750,000 played in the game in 1931, and if this be accurate it means that the mortality rate was less than three one-hundredths of one per cent. While the death of even a single player is most regrettable, it is felt that the arrangement of football on this score has been too severely drawn in some quarters."

The report's only specific hint on further rules revision is based on "a growing tendency toward the further employment of the forward pass, the desirability of which is open to question."

"Suggestions made and at times urged upon the committee to restrict the use of the forward pass have been postponed in the hope that this would adjust itself," the report continues, "but unless some other way is found to curb the indiscriminate throwing of the ball, it is probable that some future committee will have to find a solution in order to restore the balance of offensive strategy."

Tickets Cheaper.

Discussing the season's effects generally, the report says: "Lowered incomes have forced a healthy reduction in the price of admission tickets, which the imposition of taxes by the government has partially offset. Expense budgets have had to be pared by the elimination of unnecessary and luxurious practices, some of which had had a demoralizing effect upon the players and followers of the game. It is to be hoped that football will have learned its lesson from the rise and fall which has occurred and that it will not only place but keep management upon a sound economic basis hereafter and avoid inflations which have taken place in the past decade."

These are the high spots of the group of miscellaneous official records which the National league made public today to clean up the winter statistical season for major league baseball.

The young Philadelphian, Klein, third in the batting averages, led in slugging by a wide margin. Going to bat 650 times, he hit for 420 bases to compile a slugging percentage of .546. Out of New York, with 340 total bases, was second with a .501 mark, and another Giant, Terry, with 373, third at .480.

Although Don Hurst of the Phillies led in runs batted in with 143, six ahead of Klein, Terry's 117 gave him the only record on the list. It was his sixth straight year above the 100 level, equalling the mark set by Jim Bottomley of St. Louis.

Wilson, who did some heavy hitting for Brooklyn, found himself in a familiar position at the top of the strikeout list with 85 whiffs. L. Warner of Pittsburgh and Moore of Boston fanned only 11 times each. George

Watkins of St. Louis was hit by pitchers eight times.

As a club, the Phillies hit for 2438 bases and a slugging percentage of .442. They batted in 180 runs and drew 446 walks. Brooklyn recorded the high mark of 574 strikeouts and Pittsburgh the low of 385.

Webfoots Trounce Junior Collegians

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Dec. 30.—(AP) En route home, Oregon's hoopsters stopped off here last night to trounce Sacramento Junior college, 31 to 13, here last night.

The perfect defensive work of the Oregon guards completely bottled up the Jaycees' fast forwards, who failed to threaten at any time.

Cap Roberts scored 12 points to lead the parade.

ROGUE RIVER, Dec. 30.—(Sp.)—The high school basket ball team and Coach Pesula returned Friday evening, December 23, from a trip north where they played St. Mary's academy at Eugene, Oregon City high school, Benson Polytechnic high school, Portland, and Drain high school. Although not very successful at winning they report a wonderful time. Those making the trip were Gordon Hatch, Wilbur Milton, Walter Reynolds, Jim Ray, Al Smith, Orpheus Switzer, Art Lawa, manager, and Coach Pesula.

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EX-RIVALS PRACTICE TOGETHER!



Rivals during the regular football season, these star backs team up in practice sessions of the all-star eastern team which plays western eleven for charity in San Francisco January 2. Left to right: Harry Newman, Michigan; Roy Horstmann, Purdue; Jack Manders, Minnesota, and Pug Renner, Northwestern. (Associated Press Photo.)

KLEIN HARDEST SLUGGER BIG LEAGUE DATA SHOWS

By HUGH S. FULLERTON, Jr., Associated Press Sports Writer.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Chuck Klein hit the ball the hardest; Hack Wilson missed them the oftenest and Lloyd Warner and Randy Moore the least often. Bill Terry drove in more than 100 runs for the sixth consecutive year. The Cubs did most of their winning at home, while the Pirates led the way on the road.

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POINT FOR DOWNS IS WARNER'S IDEA FOR RULE CHANGE

Old Master Gives Pet Proposal in Letter to Dobie—Public Likes Free Scoring Game, He Asserts

By ALAN GOULD, Associated Press Sports Editor.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Glen Schoeny (Pop) Warner was not able to complete his migration back to the east in time to augment the football coaches' discussion of the new rules but from Palo Alto the voice of the old master could be heard today in advocacy of one of his pet proposals—a change in the gridiron scoring system to give one point for each down, in addition to the present method of scoring. He also urges a change in the new "dead ball" rule.

Warner's views were contained in a letter to Gilmour Dobie of Cornell, who presented the coaches' report on rules at the convention just closed, and urged more simplification and more safeguards in the rules, rather than any other changes in the code which he found satisfactory for 1932.

Like Free Scoring

"The public likes a free scoring game," wrote Warner, who soon will transfer his work bench from Stanford to Temple. "Baseball men recognized this when they began to use a livelier ball. The change (I suggest for football) would make the game less common and would make the best team more likely to win. It would provide many more thrills—look at the cheers that go up now when the stakes are moved forward."

"The whole idea of the game would be to advance the ball and by scoring a point for each down it would make it advisable to take more chances on third and fourth downs, instead of always punting. I have advocated this change before and some have said, 'Oh, yes, Warner wants to score first downs because he gains all his ground in the middle of the field,' but I have no selfish motive in advocating this change. I firmly believe it would help the game and we all know the game needs help right now."

"It would be advisable to accept first downs resulting from a penalty of more than five yards and not count a first down made inside the opponents' five-yard line. If a touchdown was scored on the next series of downs, this would prevent purposely downing the ball, say six inches from the goal line on a long run."

Dead Ball Rule Useless

"I also believe, as I did before the

rule was made, that there was no need for the present dead-ball rule from offensive football.

"If the present rule is left in I think it could be changed so that a ball carrier who hit the ground before reaching the goal line and slid over the line should be given the touchdown, because there can be no object to his crawling after he is over the goal line and no object in a defensive player falling on him. A rule against kneeling, not leaving it up to the officials whether it was intentional or not, would be better."

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