

FOOTBALL FEATURES.

With Novelty and Science Introduced, Great Play is Expected.

FORWARD PASS TAKEN UP.

Accuracy in Throwing and Passing the Ball the Essential Feature—New Rules Relative to Recovery of Fumbled Pass.

If the football season of 1908 does not produce several times as much novelty and science in the way of new plays as any of its predecessors it will not be the fault of the coaches and players who represent the big eastern and western teams. At every one of the institutions there has been shown a disposition to rush the season. Rudimentary knowledge of the game is not being ignored, but it is being rushed along and made subsidiary to the strategic side of the game.

That this is so is proved conclusively by the manner in which veteran players of former days flocked back to assist in building up new offensive tactics. It is doubtful if any of the eight institutions referred to here—Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Pennsylvania, Cornell, Chicago, Michigan and Minnesota—so much solid progress has ever been made within a few weeks. It is true that Cornell and Princeton entered the field later than their rivals, but they lost no time.

The forward pass is certain to be productive of the most startling revo-



COONEY, PROBABLE RIGHT TACKLE ON YALE FOOTBALL TEAM.

[Cooney, who has played right tackle in several practice games for Yale this season, is the biggest man who has ever played that position. His size is not the only attribute which recommends him. He is the fastest man in the line with the exception of Captain Burch.]

lutions this season. Without exception all these coaches are working with it as the basis of their new plays. It has now been a part of the rules for two years, but this time has been required to familiarize players with its basic principles. Its possibilities have not by any means been explored to their limit. Accuracy in throwing and catching the forward pass is the keynote to success. When the play was first introduced accuracy did not matter much, as it was used in an indiscriminate manner. Then the play was used very much as the resort of the weaker and inferior team, which trusted largely to luck in making the play a success. But this year a team is so restricted in the use of the play that it must be developed to a high degree of perfection to be a winner.

First emphasis must be placed on developing several players who can throw the ball any given distance with enough speed and accuracy to enable one of his team mates to recover it without fumbling. The change in the rules whereby a fumbled forward pass can be recovered only by the player who fumbled it on the passer's side makes this point doubly important. It has been one of the inexplicable things of modern football that so much poor passing and poorer catching of the forward pass should be tolerated by up to date coaches. At any rate, they appear to have realized the handicap this weakness has been to winning teams, and we may look for a radical improvement this season.

Three Elevens at Carlisle. Glenn Warner is working out three elevens at Carlisle. He handles the first team himself. Johnson, the brilliant quarterback of several seasons ago, has the second team, and Exendine, last year's captain, is in charge of the third squad.

Football at Swarthmore. Football is not dead at Swarthmore after all. Intercollegiate games have been abolished, but interclass teams are being organized to keep the sport alive, with a view to a team next year.

Mascots a Pest, Says Lajoie. Manager Lajoie is of the opinion that mascots are a pest. If Larry had his way, there would be no "kiddie" hanging around the ball yards to get in the way of umpires and players.

FOR THE CHILDREN

Guess—For Older Boys and Girls. Some might call it a game of "authors" played without cards. The players are lined up on a bench, just as if they were reciting a lesson at school. A leader, sitting in front, begins to tell a story into which the titles of well known books must be made to fit easily—for instance:

"Once upon a time 'Little Dorrit' went to pay a visit at 'The House of the Seven Gables.' She belonged to a society of 'Little Women' who were going on a 'Journey to the Center of the Earth' for 'The Marble Faun,'" etc.

As the title of each book is mentioned in the course of the story the players on the bench in turn guess the name of the author. This is often very puzzling, and the failure to guess correctly turns the unlucky one to the very foot of the class.

It makes no difference if the story be short or long, provided it is well known and fits in with the ingenuity of the story teller.

This is good fun for a long, rainy day, and the girl or boy must be well up in reading who can follow the story without a break.

Lord Lochinvar. The bigger the place the more exciting the game. A large ring is formed of boys and girls sitting cross-legged on the ground. They represent the wedding guests of Scott's famous "Marmion," which you must read to get the rhymes straight. The bride must sit in the center, and the company must sing:

Oh, young Lochinvar, come out of the west!
Through all the wide border his steed is the best.
Lochinvar now approaches, riding a broomstick—
Then the father of the bride—"the fair Ellen"—sings:

Oh, come ye in peace or come ye in war,
Or to dance at our bridal, young Lord Lochinvar?

Then Lochinvar, galloping up, jumps suddenly from his steed, springs into the ring, seizes the bride, and the company gives chase. If the runaways are caught before they get "over the border," Lochinvar has to try again. But if they succeed in escaping past the border the game is won. Lochinvar must be daring, for the chances are against him.

Seats of a King. One is accustomed to think of a king or queen's throne. But most rulers have several thrones. King Edward of England has six. The most costly, that at Windsor castle, is composed entirely of carved ivory inlaid with precious stones. Most ancient of the thrones is that at Westminster, where the rulers of Great Britain are always crowned. It is of massive oak and has beneath the seat a sandstone block, known as the stone of destiny from Scone, which was the emblem of power of the Scottish kings.

Another throne, of Burmese teak, carved, gilded and studded with crystals, stands beneath a great gilt canopy in the house of lords. The throne in St. James' palace is very large and imposing, having a canopy overlaid with crimson velvet, which is embroidered with crowns set with fine pearls.

Snow as a Purifier. The value of snow as a cleanser of the atmosphere is not appreciated as it should be, perhaps, for the reason that few persons besides those who seek the cause of things stop to think about it. When a flocculent or flaky body falls through a fluid it drags down in its falling suspended matters contained in the fluid. That is a principle of physics. Snowflakes, therefore, act as a sort of broom, sweeping from the air particles of matter that are suspended in it. A London scientist has made several analyses of snow gathered in the suburbs of the city and found in it certain proportions of mineral matter, carbonaceous matter, free ammonia, albuminoid ammonia, etc., the removal of which from the air is of great importance from a hygienic point of view and the bringing of it to the earth tends to enrich the soil.

Flower Enemies. It is rather interesting to note that certain flowers have great dislike for each other. For instance, if you will make up a bouquet containing, among other flowers, roses and mignonettes, and place the bouquet in a vase for a hour you will find that, while the other flowers remain perfectly fresh, the roses and mignonettes have wilted—that is to say, they have killed each other.

Lilies of the valley also kill without pity any other flower with which they come in close contact.

On the contrary, carnations and bellotropes have the greatest affection for each other.

A Game of Skill. Did you ever try throwing cards in a hat? It is great fun. Take an old high hat, place it on the floor, then let the players in turn stand at a distance from it—say ten or twelve feet. Use an ordinary pack of cards and toss them one by one into the hat as far as possible. A prize to him who gets in the greatest number adds to the interest.

After a little practice it is remarkable how skillful one may become.

A Giant Popgun. There is a tree in the tropics, familiarly known as the bamboo blowpipe, that would make great popguns, or pop cannons, for the boys if they could get it. The stem is only about an inch and a half in diameter, but it grows to a height of fifty to sixty feet, with joints fifteen feet apart.

ADrift IN A BALLOON

Experience at Sea of International Balloon Racers.

FACING DEATH IN THE DARK.

How Dr. Niemeyer and Hans Heidemann Were Blown From Rescue Ship, Clinging to Ropes—Hail From Boat Sweetest Sound They Ever Heard.

On board the steamship Prinz Wilhelm, which recently arrived at Leth, Scotland, were Dr. Niemeyer and his assistant, Hans Heidemann, the crew of the German balloon Enterprise, one of the competitors in the great international balloon race which was held at a suburb of Berlin.

Dr. Niemeyer and Herr Heidemann arrived in London wearing cheap ready made clothing which they bought in Edinburgh, virtually having been naked when rescued. The sailors of the collier which picked them up lent them garments until they could purchase others.

Their story of the hours when they believed they were facing death upon the night waves of the North sea is thrilling, says a special London cable dispatch to the New York Sun. After being blown over Cuxhaven they were not alarmed at the prospect of being carried across the sea. On the contrary, they were elated, for the wind was driving them northwest, and as it was estimated their gas would last fifteen hours they saw a prospect of landing in England and winning the race. But a little later the wind veered and, blowing with terrific force, drove them northward through pitch darkness and bitter cold. When they realized the situation Dr. Niemeyer exclaimed, "Now we have done it!" "Yes, we are in for it," responded Heidemann, and each was silently busy with his own thoughts.

Presently they saw the lights of two or three ships far below. They shouted and signaled with their electric lamps in vain. They were driven helplessly for two hours. About dawn they saw the lights of the Prinz Wilhelm and signaled frantically, and at last the steamer's foghorn answered them.

Dr. Niemeyer, telling the story, said: "Heidemann shouted, 'We are saved!' but we little knew. The worst was yet to come. Suddenly we realized that we were traveling much faster than the steamer and unless we opened the valve and dropped the chance of rescue would be gone. I opened the valve of the balloon, and the car struck the waves with tremendous force. The car, being weighted with ballast, instantly sank, and we were submerged to the armpits.

"We climbed the ropes and grasped the extension ring. There was enough gas left in the balloon to keep it above the water, but the whole thing was driven flopping through the waves which buffeted us in the darkness. We were suddenly thrown into consternation to see the Prinz Wilhelm's lights growing dimmer, and we watched them lessening until they almost disappeared.

"We could not believe that we were abandoned. It must be that we were still speeding faster than the steamer. The gas bag acted as a sail, and our only hope seemed to be to rip it. Pulling the ripping cord with all the strength left in my numbed arms, the envelope collapsed on the water, and the car sank deeper.

"Half frozen and choked by the waves, which we could not avoid, with eyes smarting from the salt water and naked except for our trousers, having hastily stripped in readiness for a swim, we still held on for our lives with our hands, having lost all foothold when the basket sank.

"The steamer's lights were now mere specks in the darkness. So they had abandoned us. 'Men, men, how can you forsake us? It isn't human!' I shouted futilely.

"Then the lights vanished altogether. We saw our end near. I said to Heidemann, 'I cannot hold out much longer.' 'Nor can I,' he answered quietly.

"As we gripped the netting for a new hold our hands touched. We involuntarily clasped fingers.

"'Goodby!' I said. 'It won't last much longer.' 'Goodby!' responded Heidemann. 'I shut my eyes to await the end. Suddenly out of the darkness we heard a shout. It was a human voice, the sweetest sound I ever heard. Rapidly nearing us was a boat which the Prinz Wilhelm had sent to find us.

"'Catch hold of the oar!' shouted a voice in the German tongue, and the boat drew alongside, and the brave sailors with difficulty helped us on board.

"I hardly know how we fought death and won. Twenty minutes later the steamer came up and took us on board. It picked up the balloon too. The captain and crew treated us in the best possible manner, and, thank God, we are here to say so. But we are disappointed that we did not win the trophy."

Toward Cheaper Aeroplanes. It costs much to build a large dirigible balloon. The French and German craft have cost from \$250,000 to nearly \$500,000 each. An aeroplane can be built for less than \$2,000, and the market price will probably soon be about \$1,000.

New Cure—all. A book has recently been published that advocates starvation as a cure for all human ailments.

WASHINGTON LETTER

(Special Correspondence.) There are at the present time 92,700 shade trees in the District of Columbia. Of this number 3,320 were planted during the fiscal year ended June 30 last.

This information is contained in the annual report submitted to the commissioners by Trueman Lanham, superintendent of parking.

During that period 2,042 trees were removed, representing forty-four separate varieties. There is therefore a net increase of 755 trees in the aggregate number planted last year.

Pin Oaks Popular. The most popular species with the department was the pin oak. A total of 840 pin oak trees were planted. There were also planted 637 Norway maples, 447 sycamores, 275 sugar maples, 352 silver maples, 201 lindens, 353 elms, 104 gingkos, 16 pyramidal oaks and 6 red oaks.

Much of the planting was for the purpose of filling vacancies in existing rows. The large majority of trees were used to extend lines into the suburbs and hitherto unplanted locations. A large number of lindens were planted on Massachusetts avenue extended. Chevy Chase received a large share of young trees, principally elms, Norway maples and pin oaks.

Tree Nursery Needed. Superintendent Lanham urges the commissioners to establish a permanent municipal nursery. Both existing nurseries are on borrowed ground. One is on the Washington asylum ground and the other on the grounds of the tuberculosis hospital in Brightwood.

Superintendent Lanham says the institutions controlling these tracts are continually requesting the relinquishment of the ground. Both nurseries are fully stocked with valuable trees. Enforced abandonment of either would mean the destruction of growths which could not be replaced within twelve years, Mr. Lanham contends.

He believes that all the larger trees in the city should be trimmed once a year. To do this an extra appropriation will be necessary. By this means only can the department hope to keep them in good condition.

Maintenance of Shade Trees. There are a large number of unhealthy trees which, he contends, should be "topped" in order to save them. Although "topping" is unpopular and many protests are registered against it, experience has taught Mr. Lanham that it is the only practical treatment of trees in an extremely unhealthy state.

To top these trees and remove such as are beyond treatment he wants an appropriation of \$15,000.

Of the 2,042 trees removed last year 1,768 were curb growths, 173 were removed from parkings, 49 from sidewalks, 42 from public alleys and unimproved roadways and 15 from school yards. Of the trees that died last year 59 were killed by gas and 39 by horses. Street, building and other improvements resulted in the removal of 678, of which 229 were incident to the elimination of grade crossings.

The total cost of maintaining this branch of the District government last year was \$43,465.94, of which \$8,800 was for salaries in the superintendent's office.

Sang Before the President. After giving concerts throughout Great Britain and Europe and singing before the rulers of many foreign countries the Mountain Ash Male Voice party of Wales came to Washington to sing before President Roosevelt at the White House. The chorus is composed of twenty-seven vocalists, famous throughout Europe for many prize winning performances.

Among their successes was a concert of old songs and Welsh melodies, given by special appointment, at the international series at Aeolian hall in London recently.

Last Big Powwow at White House. One of the most interesting powwows that ever took place at the executive mansion here occurred in the month of September, 1877. President Hayes presided over the meeting. The Indians were in council, protesting against being removed from the reservation they then occupied to the upper Missouri region of the Indian Territory.

There were twenty-three great big chiefs among the Indians participating in this conference, and the number included several who had been in the fight with Custer. All the different tribes among the Sioux were represented and had their orators primed with speeches to make to their Great Father Hayes.

Some Famous War Chiefs. Among the speakers were the distinguished old warrior Red Cloud, the stately looking Spotted Tail, Little Crow, Little Big Man, Three Bears, Black Coal and others with various degrees of dignity and ugliness, notwithstanding the profusion of feathers and paint they had adorned themselves with. Four interpreters were necessary to convey the words of the red men to the palefaces. Among these was a rather fine looking Arapahoe known as Friday, who spoke very good English.

General Crook, the gallant Indian fighter, was present at the council, which was held in the president's office. The Indians showed great deference for him on account of his prowess as a soldier.

This was the last of great Indian powwows at the White House. Nearly all of those who were leading participants in that council have quitted earthly scenes, and, no matter what the red men may have thought of buffalo hunting and war dances, both these pastimes (so to call them) have practically ended. CARL SCHOFIELD.

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SUNSET MAGAZINE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Growers of potatoes on a semi-commercial scale have sustained losses from the inroads of bugs and blight this year, which bring most forcefully to their attention the need of a systematic course of spraying in order to hold these pests in check. An effective spraying outfit can be had for a modest outlay of cash, while the bordeaux mixture will stop the blight, and the paris green added to the same solution will put a quietus on the bugs. We know of several fields of a number of acres in extent which this year produced practically nothing owing to damage from these two sources. While the bug nuisance is had one year and perhaps slight the next, the damage from blight, early and late, seems to be increasing steadily from year to year.

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