

REFEREE W. S. LANGFORD SAYS FOOTBALL SEASON JUST CLOSED WAS UNIQUE ONE

LATERAL PASS ATTACK A SUCCESS, SAYS LANGFORD

Referee of Army and Navy Game Maintains Strong Defense Makes Straight Forward Pass of But Little Use—Believes Present Rules Are Satisfactory.

By WILLIAM S. LANGFORD

Referee of Army-Navy Game. The football season which has just closed was, in many respects, unique in the history of the sport.

Probably no playing season has produced more development in methods of advancing the ball and, therefore, of guarding against the varied styles of attack.

This is due, in no small degree, to the fact that for the past three years the playing code has remained practically unchanged in its important particulars.

The development of a football team is a slow process, and it requires not only proper material, but time, study, experiment and interminable practice to obtain results from any particular set of theories upon methods of attack and defense.

During the years when radical changes in the playing code were so frequent it was almost a physical impossibility for a coach to put his theories to practical use before a season was ended, and the adoption of a new set of rules compelled the abandonment of some essential part of his "system."

When the Rules Committee obtained what it believed to be a fair balance between attack and defense, and approved a code which, with minor changes, has stood the test for three years, the coaches were enabled to proceed with their plans from year to year, and develop and perfect those styles of play which had proved most after the tests of the preceding season.

It is partly for this reason that there has been greater proficiency in the forward pass, when properly employed, and that there has been so varied and deceptive use made of it.

During the first year or two of its use the forward pass was an effective, if hazardous, ground-gaining play, but the methods of defense against it soon developed to such an extent that its use soon became limited to a mere "threat."

With the coming of the so-called "concealed attack," the lateral pass (its complements, the double and triple passes), and the revival of the "on-side" kick, the usefulness of the forward pass as a ground-gainer has been materially enhanced, and this season has witnessed many effective and spectacular variations of this much-discussed play.

This is largely due to the tremendous burden placed on the defense to guard against the different styles of attack classified under the general headings—"line-play," "open-game" and "kicking-game."

Those who are fond of discussing the means whereby football games are won or lost are very apt to refer to the "psychology" of the game. Whether this is a correct term or not may be an open question, but there is not the slightest doubt in the minds of coaches and students that the players on defense are under a considerable mental strain when faced with the necessity of guarding against the unexpected.

Attack of a versatile opponent. The comparison is often made between football and warfare, and it is certainly true in this that victory is bound up in centering one's strength against the weakest point of the opponent's defensive line.

The team which possesses a versatile attack comprising a series of effective line plays, forward passes and a comprehensive kicking game and which has also that greatest asset—a "general" who can recognize the value and appropriateness of the right play at the right time—can so fool a team on defense that it is almost impossible to prevent a score.

In other words, once a team on defense is thrown off its physical balance it is difficult for it to retain its mental balance or to stop the assaults of its opponent short of the goal line.

The team once scored against by a team fairly even in strength is at a great disadvantage, and it must be possessed of great rallying powers, as well as an efficient attack, to offset the mental effect of such a defeat.

While this may sound academic, and probably is true to a certain extent in any contest of brain and brawn, it is particularly true in the present game of football and is due without doubt to the great versatility of attack made possible by the present playing code. It is this very feature, which has accounted for the wide "break" in the records of this year's games, the great reversals of form and the almost universal failure of the "experts" to predict the outcome of so many games this fall.

The upshot of the season has been numerous and have brought into prominence one smaller college team after another, and while this particular feature has undoubtedly produced heart-burnings at those larger institutions which have held a monopoly of the much-discussed and problematical "championships," there is not the slightest doubt that it has tended to improve football as a sport in the larger sense.

The possibilities of the further development of the lateral pass and other features of the Canadian game are great, and it is to be hoped that the experiments begun will be continued.

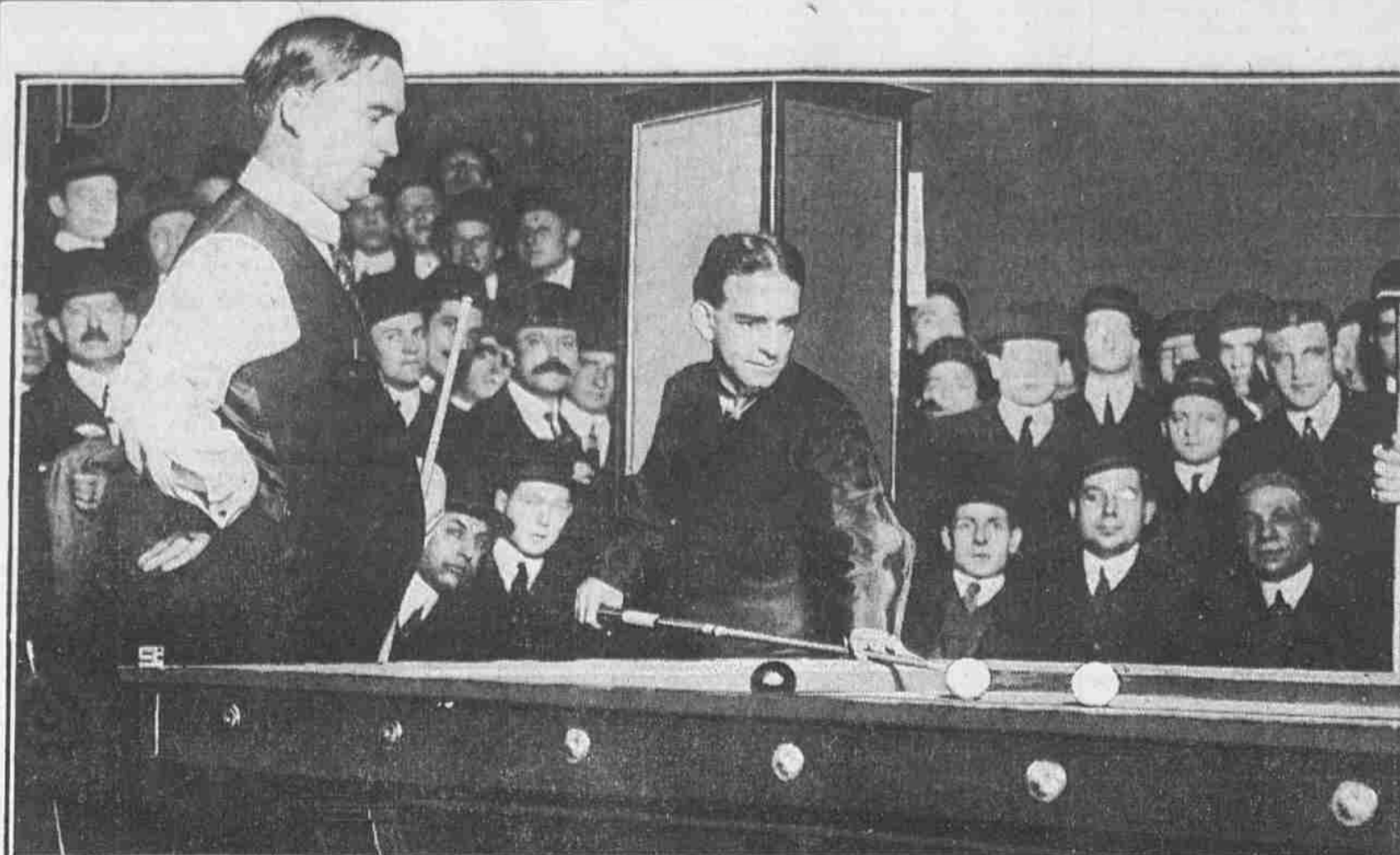
The most successful defense for this style of play found this far seems to be in the quick charging of the first line of defense, which, if successful, brings about the development of the play before it has fairly started, and the secondary defense, to stop the man who finally receives the ball. This style of defense, however, presupposes forwards capable of outguessing their opponents in the line and breaking through quickly enough to force the play—also it presupposes a complete and perfect co-operation between the first and second lines of defense.

No doubt, as in former years, there will be many suggestions, emanating from over the country, for changes (more or less radical) in the rules.

It is, however, strongly to be hoped that the Rules Committee will resist the appeal of the country for changes, and allow the game to be further developed under the code which has proved so eminently satisfactory to player and public alike.

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FLASHLIGHT MADE AT ALLINGER'S WHEN MAUPOME BEAT HELM IN RECORD BILLIARD MATCH

"Pierre" Maupome, the Philadelphia representative in the Interstate Three-Cushion Billiard League, is here pictured making the 19th frame of the match against Edward Helm, of Cleveland, at Allinger's Billiard Academy last night. The high record was 8 until Maupome finished his clip of 9. Helm was defeated 50 points to 45. Maupome also came within an ace of breaking the high game record when he scored 40 points in 38 innings.

AQUATIC SPORTS TO BE ATTRACTIVE FOR ST. LUKE BOYS

Fine Program Has Been Arranged by Manager—Dual Meet With West Philadelphia High Important.

Swimming will again be a part of the athletic sports this winter at St. Luke's School. The students at the institution were elated when a call for candidates was made and more than forty youngsters turned out to try for the team.

BROADWAY CLUB HAS A FINE CARD PLANNED TONIGHT

The old reliable Broadway Athletic Club will hold its usual weekly show tonight with two of the best little fellows in the city in the wind-up, "Al" Nash, of Southwark, and "Mickey" Gallagher, of Southwark.

LOCAL ATHLETES WILL COMPETE IN CROSS-COUNTRY RUN

Stanley Root Will Compete in National Junior Championship Race Over Van Cortlandt Park.

MAUPOME BREAKS BILLIARD RECORD AND WINS GAME

Pierre Maupome, the local representative in the Interstate Three-cushion Billiard League, defeated Edward Helm, of Cleveland, at Allinger's Academy last night in the closest contested match held by the league in this city since the start of the season, by the score of 50 to 45.

WANT BASKETBALL GAMES

The Trenton basketball team, champions of the Philadelphia League, will play a game tonight with the Camden team at the latter's hall last night.

MAY ABANDON FIGHTS

Joe Borrell, manager of "Young" Erne, announced this morning that his protégé would be started on a rigorous winter campaign, beginning next Monday night when a fight is to be had with "Young" Erne at the Olympia Athletic Club.

BORRELL TO FIGHT AGAIN

Will Meet "Young" Erne at Olympia Next Monday Night.

Present Gimbel Trophy

The Gimbel trophy was presented the champions of the Philadelphia League at a special assembly this morning of the students.

ALLEN TOWN PLEASANT AT KELLY'S SUCCESS

Allen Town, Pa., Dec. 3.—The football fans in Allentown accepted with resignation the poor record made by the Muhlenberg eleven this year until they learned of the great success made by former Coach Thomas B. Kelly in his new position as coach at the Missouri School of Mines, at Rolla, Mo.

AMATEUR BOXING BOUTS

Amateur boxing bouts were held at the Edgewater Golf Club at Chicago in decorated with a goodly number of trophies won by Evans at matches played on opponents just as formidable mentally as those who hold the distinction of having beaten him.

PLANK SIGNS WITH FEDS

Victor Athletic Southpaw at Last Takes the Leap.

BASEBALL MOGULS MEET

The regular monthly meeting of the Interstate Association of Baseball Leagues was held last evening at Green's Hotel, Philadelphia.

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PERSONAL TOUCHES IN SPORTS

A little flash of temper. Beat the Washington and Jefferson team. The greatest in the land.

MCCOY LEADS IN MATCH

"Jimmy" McCoy now has a lead of 23 balls on Morris Pink. The men are to play 500 balls in the night McCoy defeated Pink, 110 points to 75.

TOMMY LENNON UNPLACED

"Tommy" Lennon, of the University of Pennsylvania, was unplaced in the 300-yard race at the University of Pennsylvania.

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SLIDING TRENTON TEAM TO MEET JASPER TONIGHT

"Potters" Due for Another Drubbing When They Enter Cage With Kensington's Prize Quintet.

The Trenton team of the Eastern League is due for another setback tonight in Kensington, Jasper is going at a fairly speedy clip at present, while the "Potters," the highest salaried team in the league, is making the poorest race.

Although the Jasper five is not in the first place today they are still sufficiently near the top to be just as formidable as any team in the organization. On their own floor the Kensingtonians are almost unbeatable, hence with Trenton as an opponent tonight the odds are about five to one against the visitors.

Standing of the Clubs. Reading, W. I. P. C. 4 5 114. Camden, W. I. P. C. 4 5 114.

Schedule for Tonight. Trenton at Jasper. Fighting desperately from start to finish, Camden finally won over Jasper at Alpha Hall, Camden, last night, 2 to 1.

JASPER. Kummer, forward, 4 15 0 1 11. Adams, forward, 4 0 1 1 8.

INDIVIDUAL SCORING RECORD. Total. Seem, Reading, 17 10 1 1 151.

CLUB SCORING RECORD. Camden, 19 14 124 31 212.

CLUB SCORING RECORD. Trenton, 10 17 107 20 243.

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