PHILADELPHIA FOOTBALL OFFICIALS MEET—SCHOLASTIC AND BASKETBALL COMMENT

LOCAL FOOTBALL OFFICIALS FIND FLAWS IN THE CODE

Gridiron Season Reviewed From Technical Viewpoint at Meeting in Hotel Walton—Will Make Recommendations to Rules Committee

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL

WHEN the Football Rules Committee holds its annual session in New York a few weeks hence the playing code will be closely scrutinized and many changes made in the game for 1916. Many errors and vague rulings were found in the 1915 code at a meeting of football officials at Hotel Walton last night, and the gridiron solons will be asked to straighten things out before next season.

R. W. MAXWELL.

For the first time in history the leading football coaches and officials residing in and near Philadelphia held a post-season conference and discussed the intricate plays that came up in the games this fall. Heretofore a meeting was called before the season began, but it was deemed advisable to get the men together while the game was fresh in their minds. Twenty-five officials attended, and the meeting was a success in every way.

Charles J. McCarty, of Germantown, presided, and soon after he called the meeting to order it was discovered that a number of plays cropped up last fall that were not fully covered in the rules. The first important discussion arose over the rule which protects the kicker. Last fall many penalties were given for running into the player after he kicked the ball, and the question arose as to how long is a player a kicker and when does he cease to become one?

ROUGHING PENALTY.

According to the rules, an opponent is penalized if he knocks the punter off his feet, whether it is intentional or not. It is easy to give the penalty while the kicker's foot still is in the air, but some doubt arose as to whether it would be right to enforce the penalty after both feet are on the ground and the punter had taken one step forward. Charles Price, of Swarthmore, and A. S. Tyler, of Princeton, held that as soon as the kicker took one step forward he ceased to become a kicker, and could be "clipped" or knocked off his feet by the opponents. They contended that the player then was a tackler, and no penalty could be enforced. This was the consensus of opinion, and the Rules Committee will be asked to make the ruling clear.

Fred Gillender, of Penn, who coaches St. Luke's and officiates in many of the big Eastern games, declared that the rules were violated in every big game played last fall, and the offenders got away with it. He read rule 9, section 1, which states that the backfield men must be at least one yard behind the line of scrimmage when the ball is put into play, the only exception being the man who stands behind the centre and first receives the ball. That meant that the quarterback could crouch behind his centre and remain in the one-yard zone, provided he got the ball on the snap-back.

It was shown that the quarterback in many plays simply held his hands out and the ball was passed to the fullback. In cases of a forward pass, the quarter would slide through the centre of the line and the ball was thrown to him. This was one of the best plays used by Washington and Jefferson against Yale; Princeton, Harvard, Dartmouth and others also used it, but not once was it "called." It is against the rules as it is now worded and a clearer interpretation is asked.

McCARTY'S SUGGESTION.

Chairman McCarty brought up a question which is not covered in the rules. Rule 18, section 1, states that a ball passed out of bounds by the snapperback before it touches a player on his side, the ball shall go to the opponent at the spot where it crossed the side line. McCarty cited a case where the ball was on the offensive team's two-yard line, near the side line. It was fourth down and the ball was passed out of bounds behind the goal line. This gave the ball to the other team behind the opposing goal line. Of course, this has been ruled a safety, but there is nothing in the rules which prevents it being called a touchdown. McCarty asked that the Rules Committee insert a word in the rule clearing up the point and say that it is a safety.

The rule which says that an incompleted forward pass behind the goal line is a safety was attacked by James A. Moffett, of Princeton. Moffett pointed out that in all other cases an incompleted pass results in the loss of a down and the ball is brought back to the spot where it was put into play. He declared that the rule should be enforced behind the goal line the same as in the middle of the field and was upheld by the other officials. This, too, will be put up to the Rules Committee.

In one of the games last fall, a punt out was made, and the man catching the ball fell to the ground. The ball touched in the field of play and the try for goal was allowed. It was held that the fair catch had been made, and the touching of the ball to the ground did not interfere with the try for goal. The officials were of the opinion that no try for goal should be allowed, and asked for a definite ruling on what constitutes a fair catch?

Down South they have many peculiar plays, and a college in West Virginia pulled the funniest one of the year. There was a big tackle on the team, and every time his side got close to the opponents' goal line he would dash across and stand there with his hands on his hips. Then an end would climb on his shoulders and while there receive a forward pass. The play was worked several times, and it was difficult to get a ruling. Dr. Jack Keough held that it was a clear case of assisting the runner and a 15-yard penalty should be inflicted. The others, however, held different views, and the question was left open until the rules committee had a chance to act.

Here is another one for the solons to puzzle over. A fullback standing behind his own goal-line received the ball from the snapper-back and fumbled. Instead of picking up the ball, however, he kicked it. What is the ruling?

Another peculiar play was introduced by Charles Price. Mr. Price did not state where it was used, but it is as follows. The team with the ball signaled for a place kick. Everybody got the signal but the kicker, and when the ball was snapped, he dashed around the end. In the meantime, the quarterback was holding the ball on the ground waiting for some one to boot it. The opposinb linemen broke through and one, seeing the ball held in position, kicked it instead of falling on it. In a case like this, is it legal to kick the ball?

GROUND RULES.

The officials advocated a set of ground rules to be used when the crowd gets on the field. They favored a ruling which gives the ball to the side last touching it before it goes out of bounds. This will save many injuries, as the players who crash into the crowd or a fence to get the bounding ovs oftentimes are seriously hurt. It also was suggested that a blocked punt behind the goal line shall count as a safety if the ball goes into the crowd.

Gus Ziegler made an eloquent plea for more penalties for fouls committed behind the goal line. "In a game that I witnessed last year," said Gus, "the star player on one team made a touchdown. While he was on the ground one of the opposing linemen jumped on him. The star was carried out of the game and the lineman disqualified. Each side lost a man, but one suffered more than the other. There was no distance penalty.

SEVERE PENALTY.

"Now, I believe a team doing a stunt like that should be severely punished. We all know that some coaches send in a substitute early in the game with instructions to get into a fight with the best player on the opposing team. If both men are disqualified, the coach sends in his regular player, while the other side uses a substitute. This practice should be stopped and in case of rough play behind the goal line, the offenring side should either be forced to put the ball into play on its own 10-yard line, or give the ball to the offended side on the opponent's 35-yard line."

It was ruled that the timekeepers should use better watches in the game, the watches to be furnished by the home team. In case the watch fails to work, and the timekeeper doesn't discover it until the game has been in progress for some time, it was suggested that the officials get together and decide on the length of time that has elapsed. This is another job for the Rules Committee.

Among those present at the meeting were Frank Sommer, Penn; Gus Zeigler, Penn; David C. Murray, Haverford; W. J. McAvoy, Lafayette; Ben Cline, Swarthmore; Dr. John Keough, Penn; Ed. Bennis, Penn; Hip Reed, Muhlenberg; A. M. Palmer, Charles McCarty, Germantown Academy; Charles Price, Swarthmore; James Moffitt, Princeton; Paul Sangree, Haverford; George Sigmund, Penn; Fred Gillender, Penn; Reuben T. Shaw, Ohio Wesleyan; Albert C. Tyler, Princeton; John Jacoby, Penn, and Robert W. Maxwell, Swarthmore.

FRESH-SOPH FOOTBALL GAME MAY BE LOST BY DEFAULT

Annual Penn Interclass Clash Has Been Delayed

Because the game has been delayed so long the annual football scrap between the University of Pennsylvania freshmen and sophomores is in danger of going to one class or the other by default. The sophs wanted to play the game the week following the Cornell match, but the freshies asked more time.

Another week was lost by inability to agree on a date, and now Franklin Field is covered with snow. Yet the Undergraduate Committee, which has sole jurisdiction over such matters, has ordered the two teams to play the game.

ST. JOSEPH'S OPEN SEASON IN CAGE WITH FORDHAM

Coach Donahue's Squad in Initial Contest With College Freshmen Tonight

OTHER SCHOLASTIC NEWS

Schedule for Today

BASKETBALL

St. Joseph's College vs. Fordham College Freshmen at St. Joe gymnasium, 17th and Stiles streets, 7:30 p. m.

Media High School vs. Chester High School, at Chester.

Strayer's Business College vs. Temple Preparatory, at Temple Preparatory.

Fordham College Freshmen vs. Drexel Institute, at Drexel Institute, 3 p. m.

St. Joseph's College basketball team will open the season in the game with the Fordham College freshmen at the St. Joe gymnasium, 17th and Stiles streets, tonight. Manager Alexander Sawera had originally intended to open the season next Friday afternoon with Brown Preparatory School, but the opportunity to list the contest with Fordham was not overlooked.

Coach Donahue has many good men to select his team from, for with Gallagher, Murphy and Martin, forwards; Captain Byrne, centre; Reilly and J. Martin, guards, he has a strong first-team aggregation. On the second team are Mahoney and Leckie, forwards; Meehan, centre; Dougherty, Connors, Gallagher and Moloney, guards. The Fordham freshmen will find any of these players worth watching.

Basketball at night is popular with both the LaSalle College and St. Joseph's College teams. The LaSalle management finds that the interest on the part of the students increases when the games are played in the evening and consequently virtually all the LaSalle games are scheduled to start at 8 o'clock. St. Joseph's College also plays many games at night.

The LaSalle College quintet opened its season last night in the game with Brown Preparatory School. It was a walk-away for the Collegians, the Brown Preparatory youngsters failing to score but a single field goal. Coach Al Bloom made good use of the game by trying out his candidates. It was LaSalle's initial contest and the men made a very good showing.

Tom Gillespie, manager of the 1915 football team at La Salle College, has been re-elected manager for the coming year. He will begin negotiations with the schools for 1916 football games at once, as La Salle believes in an early start on its football schedule.

Some of the players who are making good on the basketball team include Captain Frank Callaghan, who plays forward, a guard during the 1914 season; Danny McNichol, guard on this year's quintet, who played forward last year; Brennan, guard, captain of this year's football team; Ruf, veteran centre, and O'Donnell, forward, running-mate to Callaghan. With this veteran squad, La Salle's record should be exceptionally good this year.

Camden High School was scheduled to open the season yesterday with the Salem High School five, but owing to poor train connections the Salem students were unable to carry out their plans and canceled the game. Camden opens the cage season tomorrow at Millville High School and expects a hard match. The Jersey players are without a game for Saturday and are anxious to meet one of the local high schools or academy teams on this day in a game at Camden.

ORGANIZED BASEBALL MADE THE PEACE OVERTURES TO THE FEDERAL LEAGUE

"Outlaw" Chiefs Will Join Ranks of American and National Circuits.

By a Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Organized baseball today is accepting credit for a wonderful victory in bringing the Federal League to terms and ending the warfare which would have eventually ruined the great national pastime. The National League is given credit for forcing the Feds to give up their fight for recognition as the third major league, but as a matter of fact it was organized ball that sought peace.

For the good of the game in the future it was deemed advisable to make President Tener's announcement read so that promoters who may harbor a desire to start another independent circuit will always remember the great failure of the Feds. Those who believe that the Feds were beaten into submission are far from the truth, as Gilmore really won his battle.

When the final settlement is made, and if the obstinate Ban Johnson, president of the American League, does not interfere with the program, it will be found that the main backers and principal cogs in the Federal League organization will be taken care of, while the lesser lights will receive far more than would have been their lot if the Feds had been so hopelessly beaten as one is led to believe by the reports of organized ball.

Organized ball considers it a victory, but it is not. Baseball is still in the same position where it will always be in the future. Any organization with plenty of money and nerve can follow the example of the Feds and eventually force recognition. It was forecast in the EVENING LEDGER a year ago that the Feds could not be beaten if they stuck together, and the developments at the opening session of the National League meeting proved that conclusively.

Just what arrangements will be made after the Feds have withdrawn their suit now in the hands of Judge Landis and the American League has signified its willingness to accept the proposition is not known. It is generally believed that the International League circuit is to be changed so that half the magnates will be taken care of in Barrow's League, while the rest will buy into organized ball.

The National League magnates have consented to the purchasing of stock in three clubs by Federal League owners and the American League will allow two others to buy the controlling interest. The National League clubs which are to have Federal Leaguers in control are the Cardinals and Cubs, while Edward Gwinner will be allowed to purchase an interest in the Pirates, although Barney Dreyfuss will still hold the controlling interest.

Just what will become of President Gilmore is not known, as apparently no arrangements have been made to take care of this wonderful promoter, who made the Federal League possible. Gilmore will be invaluable to organized ball, but his last-minute failure to comply with the request of other magnates in his league, who desired a settlement is said to have placed him in a bad light with the magnates of both factions.

According to inside information, bait

Probable Terms of Baseball Peace Pact

If baseball peace is assured the terms are expected to include the following:

Withdrawal of the Federal League anti-trust suit.

Passing of the Federal League.

Placing the International League on a firm foundation.

End of exorbitant salaries for players, some of which have exceeded $10,000.

Better baseball in the major leagues than has been seen for three seasons.

Sale of the Cubs to Charles H. Weeghman, now owner of the Chicago Federals.

Sale of the Cardinals to E. Philip Ball, of St. Louis.

Advent in organized baseball of some wealthy backers of the Federals.

Gilmore May Be Made President of Chicago Cubs if Details Can Be Properly Settled

the stock in the Chicago Cubs will be turned over to Charles Weeghman and William Walker, backers of the Chicago Feds. Weeghmann and Walker want President Gilmore, of the Feds, to be made head of the Cubs, but whether Gilmore will accept or be agreed upon by organized ball is not known. This uncertainty is due to the animosity Ban Johnson holds against the Feds' great leader.

Phil Ball, principal backer of the St. Louis Feds, has received an excellent proposition from Mr. and Mrs. Schuyler P. Britton, owners of the National League club, which will permit him to buy a large interest in that club, and it is believed that he may possibly be able to buy the franchise outright if negotiations now pending are put through.

The main discussion this morning was what would become of the Federal League players who jumped organized ball. Some time ago the announcement was made that the National and American Leagues would not permit any of these jumpers to return to the major leagues. At this time the Feds declared that they would not consider any peace plans which would not take all of their players who were considered of major league calibre.

It is hard to see how organized ball forces can hope to bar men like Benny Kauff, Dave Davenport, Ed Rousch and other youngsters who merely jumped reserve clauses, when final settlement is made. There is not enough available material for three high-class leagues unless the jumpers are taken in as it is planned to make them exempt from the draft.

It was said today that an effort was being made to get Billy Evans, American League umpire, to manage one of the International League teams after the consolidation, but one magnate declared that this was out of the question because Evans had been virtually agreed upon as the new manager of the Cleveland Americans to replace Lee Fohl.

FRANK BAKER'S SALE MAIN CHICAGO TOPIC

American League Magnates Gather for Their Annual Meeting

CHICAGO, Dec. 15.—Disposal of "Home-run" Baker and waiting for peace bulletins from New York were the main events carded for today's meeting of the American League. President B. B. Johnson was to meet the Executive Committee at noon and this afternoon was to see the first regular session.

Arrival of Connie Mack with Colonel Shibe, of the Athletics, preceded by an apparently authentic report that they were ready to make a deal for the disposal of Baker led to a belief that the "Home-run King" would be sold to the highest bidder.

A deal between the White Sox and the St. Louis Browns has apparently fallen through. In return for Schalk, Scott and Fournier Manager Rowland asked for Pratt, Sisler, Koob, Shotton and Austin.

Manager Hedges said: "Why don't you ask me to throw in the grandstand?"

Athletics to Play Dodgers

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—President Ebbets, of the Brooklyn club, after a consultation with Manager Robinson, announced he had selected his pre-season dates as follows: March 31 and April 1 in Washington, April 4 and 5 at Ebbets Field, Brooklyn, with New York Americans; April 6, 7 and 8 with Boston Americans at Ebbets Field, and April 10 and 11 at Ebbets Field with Philadelphia Athletics.

MORAN SIGNS PHILLY THREE-YEAR CONTRACT

Believe Manager Will Get $10,000 Salary—No Figures Announced Yet

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Pat Moran signd a thr-year contract to manage the Phillies this afternoon. The terms were not anonunced, but it is said that the salary is $10,000 a year. Moran would not discuss the figures, but President Baker admitted that "a very handsome increase in salary had been given to Moran."

Peace plans with the Federals are likely to hit a snag when it comes time to purchase interests in National League ball clubs. It is said that Britton, of St. Louis, and Taft, who owns the Chicago club, have placed a prohibitive price upon their holdings. It is believed that the same condition prevails in the American League.

While peace rumors are flying thick and fast and the magnates are awaiting news from Barney Dreyfuss' trip to Chicago, where he is conferring with the American League owners, there is a wild scramble for the stars in the third organization. Pat Moran is said to be after the services of Lee Magee, and others are in the market.

Players who only broke reserve clauses will be taken back into the fold, it is said, but iron-clad contract jumpers will be barred. Benny Kauff, of the Tip Tops, and Hal Chase, of Buffalo, are said to be blacklisted.

WOHLFARTH MAY JOIN THE CAMDEN FIVE, IS RUMOR

Owners Must First Obtain His Release From Jasper Management

MAGNATE DENIES RUMOR

Followers of the Camden Eastern League basketball five attach considerable significance to Eddie Dolan's hurried trip to Homestead last Friday, and are of the belief that the Camden centre was the emissary of the club owners in an effort to sign "Dutch" Wohlfarth. Wohlfarth has been baking pies and cakes at Homestead for two years and is well content with his lot; so well content, in fact, that he refused a flattering offer from the Jasper management, with which team he was under reserve prior to the start of the present season.

A player of the type of Wohlfarth alongside Jimmy Brown would get the Camden five out of its present slump. At present Roy Steele is the only member of the Camden quintet who can consistently emerge from a scrimmoge with the ball. Brown is a first-rate scoring guard, but Deighan has no particular virtue, aside from the fact that he is a plugger. With Wohlfarth doing the greater part of the heavy work, Steele would be relieved of that burden and could devote most of his time to playing forward. Thus Camden's offense would be improved at least 25 per cent.

Poor crowds have attended the games at the 3d Regiment Armory, but a winning team would bring out the patrons to the same number that witnessed closing games of the 1914-15 race.

Samuel Herman, one of the Camden owners, declares the Wohlfarth rumor to be unfounded. In order to obtain the player in question Camden must first obtain his release from Jasper. Owner Linton stated the Camden management has not approached him on the subject of Wohlfarth, and furthermore declared that any offer for his release would have to be a very flattering one.

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