

CHICK EVANS, PLAYING FOR CHARITY, MISLAID TEN SPOT; IS FOUND; GIVEN TO SOLDIERS

PLAY USED BY SOL METZGER IN 1903 MAY WIN SOME BIG GAMES IN 1917 IF THE PLAYERS USE THEIR HEADS

It Is Legal to Shoulder an Opponent Into a Kicked Ball Which Is Bouncing on Ground and Then Recover It—Sol Pulled It Against Harvard

A PLAY which was enacted on Franklin Field a couple of weeks ago may play an important part in some of the big battles the latter part of this month. We are referring to the long punt of Berry's in the Pitt game, which was grabbed by Thomas on the 1-yard line as it was bouncing toward the goal. Thomas believed that the ball had struck the Pitt man's leg and was a free ball. Nothing like this happened, however, and, as a man on the kicker's side touched the oval inside the 10-yard line, Pitt was awarded a touchback and the ball taken out to the 20-yard line, where it was put into play. Now this is an ordinary play which happens time after time, but there is a slight variation that can be used. Some of the players and coaches are practicing it and the chances are that somebody will be surprised. Incidentally, the officials have a sweet opportunity to get in wrong, and for that reason we will endeavor to explain.

Fourteen years ago, in 1903 to be exact, Penn played Harvard on Franklin Field and on four different occasions the Red and Blue end recovered kicked balls through a little stunt which worked successfully. Sol Metzger was at end and was so fast that he usually got down the field before the ball began to drop. Four times the ball sailed over the catcher's head, and as it bounced along the ground, Sol shouldered the opponent into the ball. He did not use his hands to push him, but butted him toward the bounding pigskin, and when it struck his leg, or any other part of his body, Metzger fell on the ball. The rules were different in those days, but this particular play is perfectly legal today. A player has a perfect right to shoulder an opponent into the path of the ball and then recover it after it is put on side. If the hands are used, a penalty for holding will be inflicted, but so long as the man is butted into the ball with the shoulder, the play is legal. Thus we can see that Thomas or some other Penn man could have butted the Pitt halfback into the ball and recovered it right on the goal line. This is a good play to study, for it may come in handy some time.

IT IS not unusual for the players on both teams to stand around the ball near the goal line, every one being afraid to touch the ball. In a case like that if a man on the kicker's side shoulders an opponent so that he touches the ball, some one can recover it and make a good gain. The strange part of it, however, is that it seldom is worked.

Here Is a Tough Play to Decide, as the Rules Are Contradictory

IN A GAME up in New England once upon a time, the defensive fullback muffed a punt and it rolled out of the field of play. A player on the kicker's side recovered the ball out of bounds and by that time the referee came rushing on the scene. He picked up the ball, stepped off 15 yards and gave it to the side which muffed it. Immediately there was a howl from the other team.

"We recovered the fumbled ball out of bounds," they said, "and as it was a free ball, it belongs to us."

"You are wrong," replied the referee. "The ball was kicked out of bounds. The other officials will bear me out."

Unfortunately, however, the umpire ruled that the ball had been fumbled in the field of play and the head linesman was watching the sunset or something and failed to see what had happened. This stumped the referee for a time, but he refused to change his decision. Finally he was convinced that he may have been wrong, and to settle the argument, said:

"We will toss a coin to see who gets the ball."

This same system might be used to decide the following play which was pulled recently and stumped every one. It wandered in with the morning mail today. Look it over:

Mr. Robert W. Maxwell, Sports Editor of the EVENING LEDGER:

Sir—In a football game a short time ago, a team had the ball on its own 10-yard line and attempted a forward pass. The passer dropped back to his 3-yard line, and as he made the pass an opposing lineman broke through, hit the ball and it grounded behind the goal line. Was that a safety or a touchback? The rules are rather vague on the play. G. F. S.

THE first thing one would like to do on a play like that is to shoot the man who attempted it in the shadow of his own goal line. Then, after looking over the rules, you feel like using the same stuff on the authors. There are two beautiful solutions; they are entirely different and each seems to be right.

How the Rules Can Misdemean Officials on an Unusual Play

A FOOTBALL official has to think quickly on the field. He can't delay the game and talk things over with the other officials, for that would start an argument and bring in the players on both sides. In a case like this, he could call a safety and prove it in the rules, or call it a touchback and get away with it. All he had to do was to take his pick. But let's look it over.

Rule VI, Section 16 (b) says: "A safety is made when a player of the side in possession of the ball makes a forward pass which becomes incomplete behind his own goal line." That seems perfectly clear, but what is the definition of a safety? Once more we quote the rules, "A safety is made when the ball in possession of a player guarding his own goal line is declared dead by the referee on or behind the goal line, provided the impetus which sent it across the goal line was given by the side defending the goal." The only exception is a kick which bounces back from an opponent.

That brings us back to the question of impetus. Was it furnished by the man who threw the ball or the man who blocked it and sent it over the line? Should the play be ruled like that of a blocked punt, and consider that the impetus was furnished by the thrower and the direction was changed when the ball hit the opponent's hands? Or, shall Rule VI strictly be adhered to and call it a safety? This could be done, but suppose the other side claimed a touchback? That brings in another ruling.

Here is Rule XVIII, Section 5: "If the ball, after having been legally passed forward . . . strikes the ground inside the end zone or any spectator or obstruction in the end zone before or after it has been touched by any eligible player, or it crosses the end line or the side line extended before touching the ground, it becomes dead and shall count as a touchback to the defenders of the goal." Then, under a note, we find that "the provisions of this section do not apply in case where a forward pass is made by a team from BEHIND its own goal line."

THERE you are, so take your pick. Personally, I believe that a touchback would be unfair for the team which made the pass then would get the ball on the 20-yard line. Also, there is some doubt as to the legality of a safety with the conflicting rules in the book, for the pass was made by a man in the field of play and not BEHIND his own goal line. It should depend entirely on the question of impetus as to whether or not it is called a safety. If the opponent knocks the ball into the end zone it is one ruling, but if it bounces back from his hands, arms or body, it is another. Perhaps it would be a good plan to toss a coin, as the New England referee did in an emergency. At any rate, I should like to get some opinions on the play.

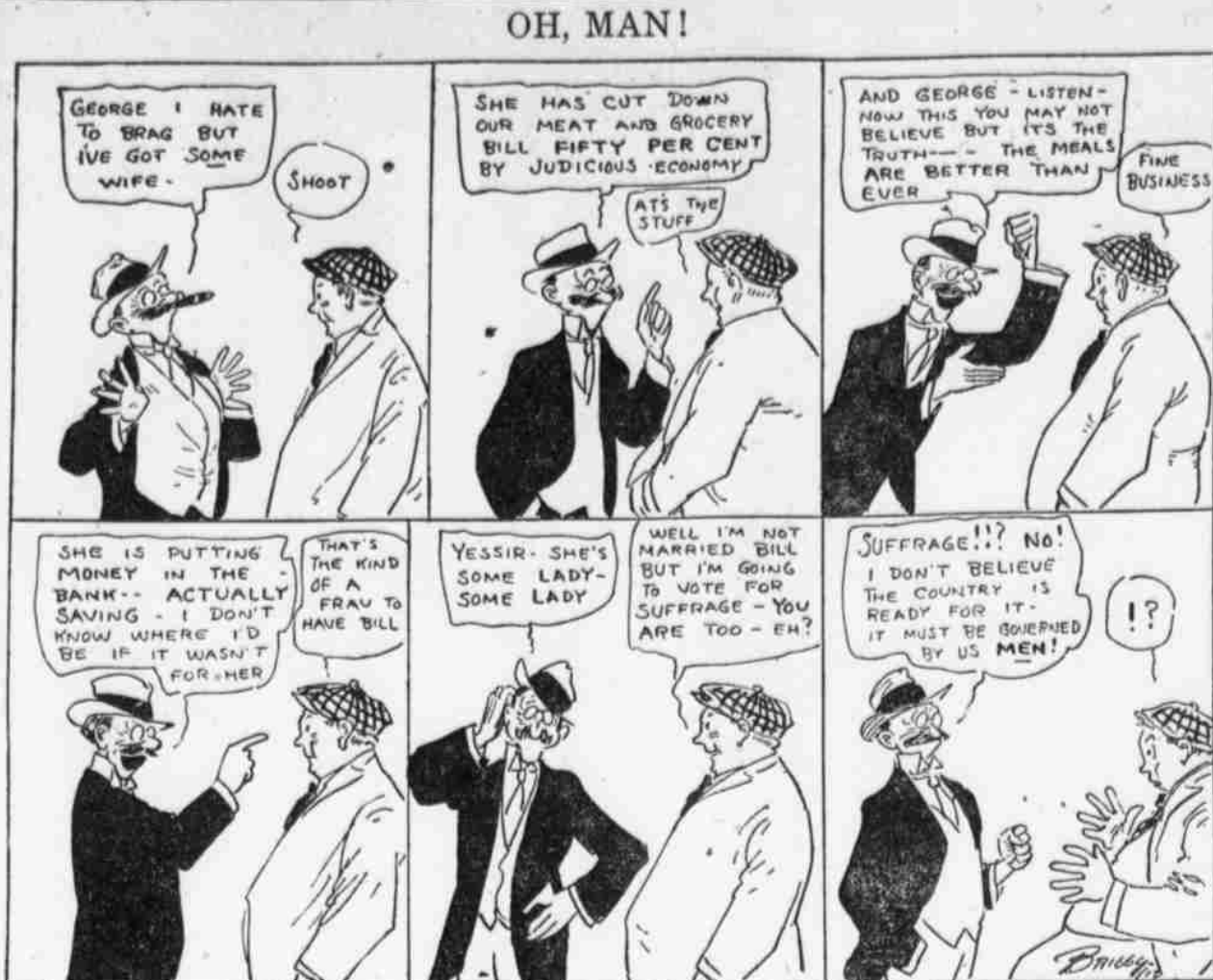
Andy Smith Smashed Washington's Long Record of Gridiron Wins

ANDY SMITH, the former Penn fullback, now head coach at the University of California, scored a notable victory when his team triumphed over the University of Washington eleven by the score of 27 to 6. This is the first defeat suffered by Washington in ten years and shatters a record which was started by Glenn Dobbie. The silent coach of the Navy cleaned up everything on the Pacific coast while he had charge, but his successor ran into squalls in his first year. At any rate, it was a glorious victory for Andy Smith and his able and enthusiastic assistant, Gus Ziegler. The pair has put out a good football team this year, and constructed it from the greenest of green material. For years rugby was the favorite outdoor sport in the far West, and it was not until a couple of years ago that the American game was taken up. It was necessary to start in at the beginning, and Smith and Ziegler seem to have made a thorough job of it.

Andy was worried over the big game and suffered considerably through loss of sleep. Ziegler, too, was restless, and one of the San Francisco papers commented on the terrific mental strain under which the coaches were working. Fortunately, however, the team is cured and preparations are being made to win the remainder of the schedule.

Dobbie is missed in the Northwest, but his admirers are elated over his showing in the East. The Spokesman-Review, of Spokane, Wash., has the following story: "That Dobbie should soon have the Navy machine traveling like a 1917 motor on a macadamized road is evidenced by the fact that even the veterans of the team are playing his system. Ingraham, Roberts and Martin are the decorated players of last year's team who are ascending to heights under Dobbie's tutelage that hitherto were not even attempted by the trio."

THESE figures fail to show how much better the Navy was than West Virginia. The Spokesman-Review, says an enthusiastic writer, commenting on the game between the two teams, "That may be true, but if a score of 5 to 9 is a victory, the victors of the game are the victors of the game, what does it matter?"



IF YOU THINK THERE IS ANYTHING IN COMPARATIVE SCORE SYSTEM, JUST TAKE LOOK AT BOXING RECORD

Leonard Ought to Be Able to Lick Jess Willard, According to the Figures, but Figures Are Not Always Accurate

By GRANTLAND RICE

OUTSIDE of David, who dropped Goltz, we recall no lightweight who ever sent a heavyweight in the dusk.

But by way of gradual margins it might be proved that a lightweight isn't so far back after all.

Leonard knocked out Welsh; Welsh fought a draw with Packer McFarland; McFarland fought a draw with Mike Gibbons; Gibbons outpointed Jack Dillon; Dillon whipped Frank Moran, and Moran easily remained the limit with Jess Willard.

Yet between the two extreme gaps the margin of weight is nearly 130 pounds. Leonard won his title around 132; Willard weighed 250 when he fought Moran.

This might be used as proof that the comparative score system isn't any too sound by way of arriving at accurate results.

Fine Backfield Material

It isn't very likely that any one is going to select an All-American or All-Sectional eleven this season—not with three-fourths of the team who might have been gridiron stars for the autumn drive serving under the colors.

But even with a many of the front-rankers out of football harness, the strength of backfield stars who remain is an unusual thing.

For if these were ordinary times one could even now select a backfield to compare with the high average of the past.

Note the list of eligibles: Oliphant, of the Army; Berry, of Pennsylvania; Guyon and Strupper, of Georgia; Tech; McLaren, of Pittsburgh; Harley, of Ohio State; Weimann, of Michigan—and the list is only started.

Even past seasons would have found it surprisingly difficult to have offered four finer backfield men than Oliphant, Berry, Guyon and Harley—a quartet that combines tremendous power with baffling speed.

The Two Wallpapers

Some one started the argument as to the hardest hitters in the hardest hitter baseball had ever produced.

The range, including some fifty years and from 15,000 to 20,000 entries, left plenty of room for debate.

They began with Pop Anson, picked up by Larry Lajoie, and ended the 1917 list with Babe Ruth.

We put the query to a few veterans, still left as managers or inspectors, who had seen the best.

They had two votes to turn in. The first was for Ed Deleahanty; the other was for Sam Crawford.

It was the combined opinion of these figures that Deleahanty and Crawford could hit a baseball harder than any other men up and down the roster—not overlooking Anson, Lajoie, Wagner, Baker, Schulte, Cravath or other home-run monarchs known to the slugging fame of the sport.

Certainly the last ten years have produced no harder hitter than Sam Crawford. The Wahoo barter had the wallop beyond all competition. But the old birds say that Deleahanty could outhit even Crawford when it settled down to a matter of force.

The verdict was that for the closing year Babe Ruth headed the parade, with the lustiest punch. And there was also Wally Pipp, an erratic hitter, but one blessed with

O'TOOLE DEFEATS SPENCER

Scores Verdict Over Gloucester Boy in Final at Nonpareil Club

Willie O'Toole outpointed Willie Spencer, of Gloucester, in six hard rounds at the Nonpareil Athletic Club last night. The contest was replete with fast punching. There were no knockdowns. O'Toole landed the most punches.

Al Bauer won from Tommy Warren, of Atlantic City. Young Greene stopped Vincent Farrell in the third round. Jimmy Briggs knocked out Young Fitzpatrick in less than one round. Young Fitzpatrick defeated Young Clifford.

SCRAPS ABOUT SCRAPPERS

Johnny Tillman is in demand at the local arena, in fact the club members insist upon seeing his boxing features in the ring as a half portion of the evening's entertainment. The Olympia has the right idea, and Johnny will start next Monday night against Steve Latta. Steve takes his training at his up-state quarters, while Johnny is working out at Adam Ryan's gym.

Joe Williams was to have fought Gusie Lewis in a bout at Baltimore the early part of the week, but the promoters were forced to postpone the match, as the kid was on the side line, having recently sustained a bad cut over the eye.

We have been requested to run a little snub about the ball to be held by the well-known (Globe Club) next Friday evening, Larry Williams, Monte, Billy Kramer and a score of boxers will be in attendance. The ball will be held in the New Auditorium Hall, Seventh street and Snyder avenue.

Joe Tubey is busy in preparation for his little date with Battling Murray at the South Broad street arena next week. Joseph is boxing with Gusie Lewis at Norman Hindley's, and will be in camp condition for Murray.

A club located in Providence, R. I., has runned into print with an offer of \$2,500 from a fifteen-round boxing match between James Leonard, the champion, and Johnny Dundee, thirty months champion. Hardly a word in for Dundee, as he will be remembered by collected more than \$11,000 for his bout here with Johnny Kilbane.

The show arranged for the Cambria, A. C. (Washington, avenue and Sumner street) next Friday night is one to satisfy all those who love a fight. Every bout has been carefully arranged in order to assure very interesting contests. The final bout will be between Johnny Dundee, of Kennington, and Young Joe Moore, of Southwick. These boys are two of the most rugged in their class. The semi-final will bring together two of Uncle Sam's

boys, who are well known to all fight fans—Young Lawrence, of Camden, and Chick Myers, of Fairmont. The preliminaries will include the following well-known boys: Blount, of Southwick, vs. Johnny Morgan, of Kennington; Kid Stevie, of Port Richmond, vs. Jack Everhardt, of Harroville, vs. Young Martin, of Kennington.

Joe Wellins, the lad who recently proved his patriotism by joining the navy, was in luck for a ten-round start date with Pete Harley, known as the Durable Luge, at the Broadway Sporting Club, in New York, next Saturday night.

Ward is recruited from the local matchmakers to the effect that a majority of the clubs will hold training boxing cards on Thanksgiving Day. Each promoter will serve up the best in the land, and the cash customers should be in line for a pleasing dish on turkey day, or less Mr. Hoover want us to call it pork Thursday?

The abolition of boxing in New York State next week is expected to retard the development of many a promising young boxer, and profit by their ability, but it is those who are just beginning to rise who will feel the effects of the repeal measure most.

Battling Levinsky and Kid Norfolk are to exhibit their wares at the Power A. C., of New York, on a ten-round start date with the local boys. The boys will be in line for a pleasing dish on turkey day, or less Mr. Hoover want us to call it pork Thursday?

Evening Ledger Decisions

NONPAREIL A. C.—Willie O'Toole outpointed Willie Spencer. Al Bauer beat Tommy Warren. Young Greene stopped Vincent Farrell in the third round. Jimmy Briggs knocked out Young Fitzpatrick in less than one round. Young Fitzpatrick defeated Young Clifford.

NEW YORK—Soldier Battling defeated Silent Martin. James Sullivan, amateur champion, defeated F. Hamilton. A. Hertzberger won from R. C. Walker, another amateur titleholder. Walker came out of his usual low-keyed style and knocked Dundee, New York, won from Ed Moore, Philadelphia, in a ten-round start date. Knockouts in ninth: Knockout (Yves outside) Charley Hayes.

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