

IT TAKES MORE THAN A COLLEGE EDUCATION TO INTERPRET THE PRESENT FOOTBALL CODE

RULING ON TOUCHING PUNTED BALL STILL OPEN TO DISCUSSION

Official Code Fails to Settle Question and Forces Referees to Make Own Decisions—Present Rule on Interference With Forward Pass Unfair to Defenders

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL Sports Editor Evening Public Ledger

A football game played a short time ago, writes C. C. H., "the ball was punted from behind the line of scrimmage and sailed down the field. The catcher misjudged the kick and the oval was going over his head when he jumped and touched it with his fingers. This did not retard the forward progress of the ball and it rolled until it hit the goal posts, bounding back into the field of play. The player who touched the ball recovered it, started to run and was downed on his own 4-yard line. The referee ruled it was a touchback when the pigskin hit the goal posts and gave it to the defenders, first down on the 20-yard line. Was that the proper decision?"

The decision on this play is open for discussion, not because of a probable error on the part of the referee, but because, like many others, the rules have nothing to say about it. All an official can do in a case like that is to use his own judgment, and is perfectly right in ruling a touchback or calling the ball down where the player was tackled. I put the question up to Wilmer Crowell and Charley McCarthy, two high-class officials, and both declared the ball was not dead when it hit the goal posts and no touchback should have been declared. Now let's look at the rules. Section 15 of Rule 6 says: "It is a touchback if a kicked ball strikes the goal posts or crosses the goal line, it is a FREE BALL, and if one of the kickers' side falls on it behind the goal line it is a touchdown. However, if one of the defending side recovers the ball it is a touchback. The reason for the ruling is that the impetus which sent the ball over the line did not come from the side defending the goal, but from the kicker. However, if the ball is caught and then fumbled until it goes over the goal line and is recovered by one of the defenders it is a safety, and counts two points for the other side. THIS point is well worth remembering, for something serious may happen if a player takes it for granted that a punted ball, after having been touched by an outside man, becomes a touchback if it hits the goal posts. It is a FREE BALL and must be played the same as a fumble. Many Weird Decisions Allowed to Pass Unnoticed

THAT GUILTIEST FEELING



MISSING AN EASY PUTT OF TWO FEET FOR A WINNING OF THE GREEN FOR A WINNING OF THE MATCH BY ONE UP. NOW IT'S A TIE AND NECESSITATES PLAYING AN EXTRA HOLE

College Football Games on Schedule for Today

NEW PENN TEAM FACES LAFAYETTE

Schweidel, Smith and Harvey Start Against Maroon Eleven Today

THREE BIG GAMES ON TODAY'S CARD

Pitt-W. and J. State-Rutgers and Michigan-Chicago Important Meetings

VALGER OPPOSES KANSAS TONIGHT

Good Lightweight Card to Feature Show at National Club

Schoolboy Contests Scheduled for Today

Novice Run Won by West Philly Captures Cross-Country Race With 31 Points

WEST PHILLY GAINS SECOND WIN IN ROW

Southern Eleven Loses Another League Game When Munroe Tackles Hamilton for Safety

RIDLEY PARK WALLOPED

WEST PHILADELPHIA HIGH stepped forward to its second victory of the Public School League competition for the Edie A. Gimbel cup yesterday afternoon when the Westerners defeated South Philly by the hair-raising figure of 2-0. It was one of those rare scholastic games where spirit is combined with real football play. The Southward boys were fired with the fear of another league reverse, and they fought gamely and well to avoid virtual humiliation from a team which had won when they tackled the Hog Island eleven. A poor pass gave West Philly its opportunity, and to the business and accuracy of Captain Munroe for intercepting the ball, the game was over. The downers were trimmed, 35-0. A poor pass gave West Philly its opportunity, and to the business and accuracy of Captain Munroe for intercepting the ball, the game was over. The downers were trimmed, 35-0.

Ball Players Aviators

Nunamaker, Trainer and Pipp in Training

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