

MORE TROUBLE FOR THE PLAYERS—FOOTBALL SOLONS ABOUT TO WRESTLE WITH THE RULES

EASTERN FOOTBALL MAKES DEBUT TODAY ON MANY GRIDIRONS

Penn Opens Against Bucknell on Franklin Field, Bates Plays Harvard, Lehigh Opposes Villanova and Dartmouth Engages Springfield—Rules Committee Meets

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL, Sports Editor Evening Public Ledger

PENN gets off to a flying start in football this afternoon when the varsity lines up against Bucknell in the opening fracas of the season.

Today's contests open the 1919 season, and several games are on the list. Lehigh lines up against Villanova at South Bethlehem and Tom Keady's athletes will have a chance to show what they can do.

The famous West Virginia University eleven plays its first game of the year with Marietta College in Morgantown. This will be an interesting contest, because it will give us a line on the strength of the mountaineers.

With the big league baseball season about over and the world series to be staged as a finale, football is ready to step in and take its place as the major sport.

TONIGHT at the Biltmore in New York the annual interpretation meeting will be held. Officials, coaches, players and managers will read over the rules and the rough spots will be straightened out.

Knowledge of Football Rules Essential

A KNOWLEDGE of the rules is one of the most necessary things in football. Despite this, many players pay no attention to this feature, and their ignorance of the code is amazing.

In one big college game in which I officiated time had been taken out three times by one side. A player was hurt and his captain rushed over to him shouting: "Get on your feet and play. Don't have time taken out or we will be penalized half the distance to the goal line."

That's a common occurrence on the football field. Although the penalty for taking out time more than three times is only two yards and the distance to be gained remains the same, the players usually get it mixed with disqualification or something like that.

The rules are not the easiest things in the world to interpret, but close study will reveal many of the important points. In colleges and prep schools the coaches attempt to drill their men on what is legal and what isn't, but on the lots, where the kids and semipro play the game, this sometimes is difficult.

Here are some important things to remember. There must be at least seven men on the line of scrimmage when the ball is put into play—that is, two ends, two tackles, two guards and a center.

Starting before the ball is put into play is offside and is penalized five yards. One man, however, is allowed to run toward his own goal line or obliquely across the field before the ball is passed.

FORWARD passes must be made from a spot at least five yards behind the center, and the backfield men eligible to catch the ball must be at least one yard back.

More of the Complicated, Involved Code. THESE points are important to know at the start of a season and the others will come later. As was said before, it takes considerable study to discover the rulings in the book.

One of the most common fouls on a football field is offside. It can be seen from the grand stands and the spectators are well acquainted with it. "What is meant by offside?" a football coach asked an official one day.

An examination was made, and, strange as it may seem, that simple explanation was nowhere to be found. Evidently it is assumed that every one knows what offside means, for in four different places reference is made without an illuminating explanation.

In Rule 6, Section IV, offside is defined as follows: "A player is OFFSIDE when the ball has last been touched by one of his own side behind him."

That's a highly illuminating explanation, but more is yet to come. In Rule 9, Section II, we find that "in scrimmage no part of any player shall be ahead of his line of scrimmage, except in the case of the snapper-back, who, when snapping the ball, may have his head and his hands, used in snapping the ball, ahead of his line of scrimmage."

Section III of the same rule says: "No player of either side may encroach upon the neutral zone until the ball is put into play."

AFTER studying the explanations of offside what do you find? Nothing but involved sentences weighted down by heavy English, explaining everything but the real meaning.

Revision of Rules Is Needed

THIS is not an attempt to criticize the rules as inaccurate and incomplete, for such is not the case. The trouble is that the code never has been revised. No attempt has been made to rearrange the sections or substitute simpler meanings.

As it is now, many things are put up to the officials. If a certain ruling is made which does not satisfy the offended team the official is placed in a tough position. If he could pull out his rule book, point to a certain rule which covers the play in question, there would be no argument.

Lafayette Eleven Is Strengthened

LAFAYETTE'S chances for developing a winning eleven this fall were greatly increased yesterday when Jack Weldon breezed up the hill at Easton and indulged in a little gridiron work, the first since 1915.

Weldon will be a big help to the Lafayette team. He should have been named years ago because of the fact that he is such a good runner. His speed was his last day of his career and, except for a few days in about ten days,

CONCEDING YOURSELF A PUTT

Humorous golf illustrations with captions like 'YOU! ON THE GREEN IN TWO! NOW IF I SINK IT, I'LL HAVE A BIRDIE THREE' and 'OH! TOO HARD! WAY PAST IT TOO BAD WHOA!!'

IF YOU GO BY DOPE CHICAGO HAS CALL OVER MORAN'S REDS

White Sox Have Lustier Punch, Just as Strong a Defense and Better Form, but You Never Can Tell by "Figgers"

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WHO'LL COP THE SERIES?

Chapter 5—The Round-Up

IF WE are to go by the dope and the figures—or by form—the White Sox have the call.

They have a defense fully as strong—much the lustier punch—and in Cicotte and Collins two of the individual types that are much more dangerous than any two men on the Red roster.

Even if the Reds were stronger in all other ways, two such men as Cicotte and Collins in a world series would make a vast amount of difference—one of them a power for the defense and the other not only a defensive star, but a vital factor in the daily attack.

THE Reds have more good pitchers, but in Cicotte, Williams and Kerr the Sox have enough pitchers to handle eight or nine games. The three of them could pitch the entire nine games without over-exertion.

No Easy Victory

BUT there will be no slaughter. In fact, we look for the Reds to put up a much stronger fight than the early dope might indicate.

Moran has a better club today than he had in 1915, when he sent his Phillies against the Red Sox. The Reds today are the best club the National League has sent to a world series since 1914, when Rudolph, Tyler and James throttled the startled Athletics in four straight games.

Moran has neither the outfield nor the infield strength of the Sox upon both attack and defense. He hasn't a catcher as good as Ray Schalk. He hasn't any one pitcher as brilliant as Cicotte.

YOU might say this is quite sufficient to make the result an easy cinch. But it isn't.

The Red Chance

AND for this reason Moran has one of those well-balanced machines that can be counted upon to play good, hard baseball.

He is fairly certain to get good pitching at every start. He has a club that will fight back with all it has to give. It has fought hard all the year, and when it met the Giants in two vital series there was nothing to it—the Reds tore in and swept them off their well-spiked feet.

The Reds outclass the remainder of the National League by a much wider margin than the White Sox outclass the remainder of the American.

THESE impressions are offered to remove the idea which so many seem to have that the Sox will have a romp. For they won't. The Sox should win through greater power, but only after a good, hard scrap.

The Jump Game

THE club winning the first game and thereby obtaining the jump has nearly always predominated in these post-season championships.

That first affair means more than a little where there are only a few games to play.

If the Reds can topple Cicotte in that first battle they will have Chicago backers more than a trifle harassed. A start of that sort would give the Reds a moral impetus of incalculable value.

Won't Hurt the Sox

CICOTTE will only be beaten in one of those 1-0 or 2-1 affairs. He isn't going to yield more than one or two runs.

THE nine-game series isn't going to affect Chicago's chances. The extension should make little difference to either club, except in a financial way.

As long as Gleason has three pitchers to bank on, Cicotte and Williams can both pitch three games and still draw sufficient rest, although Cicotte will be better at the start than later on, as he is no longer in his prime.

The Sox, on form, should win. A fast ball club that can bat above .280 for the season, with three good pitchers and a strong supporting defense, will have nothing lacking when it comes to the test.

BUT it should be one of the best series of many years—well fought and well played from start to finish. For it is a meeting of class—a meeting between the best club in the American League and a club that has rushed the remainder of the National League off its balance.

HORNSBY CROWDS ROUSH; SPURT TOO LATE; COBB CLINCHES BATTING HONORS ONCE MORE

Cardinals' Infielder Gains Eight Points and Creeps Close to Leader, but Rally Came Too Late

MEUSEL IN FAST SET

Table of Club Batting Averages in National League

ROGER HORNSBY'S belated spurt doubtless cost him the hitting honors in the National League for the 1919 campaign.

Hornsby rapped the sphere for a gain of eight points during the week ending last Wednesday and this enabled him to get within five points of Roush's 3022.

MEUSEL still clings in the fast set with his .306, which is four points better than the mark credited to him a week ago.

INDIVIDUAL BATTING. Player, Club, G, AB, R, H, SR, PC

Table of Individual Batting for National League players

Jess Barnes, With 24 Wins, and Meadows, With 18 Defeats, Extremes in Pitching

Table of Games Won by Pitchers From These Clubs

Main table of Pitcher Statistics: Pitcher, Club, W, L, P.C., last start

Brilliant Georgian Now Far in Front of Jackson, and There's No Chance to Dethrone Him

BURNS HEADS WALKER

Table of Club Batting Averages in American League

TY COBB is about to win the American League batting crown for the twelfth time.

George Burns passed Walker and now is the best batsmith on the Mack payroll.

The Mackmen have a strange hold in eighth place in club batting, their .243 trailing the Senators by fifteen points.

INDIVIDUAL BATTING. Player, Club, G, AB, R, H, SR, PC

Table of Individual Batting for American League players

Cicotte and Russell Both Victorious in Last Eight American League Games

Table of Games Won by Pitchers From These Clubs

Main table of Pitcher Statistics for American League

Advertisement for Little Bobbie cigars with text: 'Have you lately? Have you made this discovery?' and 'MANY men found that mounting prices were cutting into their favorite smokes.'

Want Cycle Speed King. The champion motorcycle riders who will compete in the national title meet at the Springfield Day Speedway a week from today are clamoring for the entry of Lieutenant Arthur Chapin, the world's speed king.

Mack Signs Reds. Philadelphia, Sept. 27.—Chief Bradley, the Mack motorist of the United States Cycle and Motor Vehicle Co., yesterday received the offer of the National Cycle League, which is to be held at Springfield, Mass., in 1920.