

TY COBB BLAZES TRAIL FOR HITTERS, BUT GEORGE BURNS HIS WAY TO TOP OF A'S BATTERS

FOOTBALL OFFICIALS NOW INSIST PLAYERS MUST WEAR NUMBERS

Many Leading Gridiron Authorities at Special Meeting at Hotel Stenton Unanimously Voted to Recommend That Rules Committee Take Action on Numbering

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL, Sports Editor Evening Public Ledger

FOOTBALL players will be numbered next year, not because they want to but because they have to, if the wishes of the leading gridiron officials are carried out.

Bill Roper, head coach at Princeton, came out strongly in favor of the plan, and said his team would wear numbers next year regardless of the action taken by other members of the Big Three.

"The spectators must be considered next fall," he said. "I know they find it difficult to identify the players and, as they support the sport, we should do something for them. I am heartily in favor of numbering the players, and will do all in my power to have it made compulsory in the rules."

If the rules committee adopts this suggestion the game of football will become more popular in the future. The numbering of players is very essential in the big games, for it makes it easier to follow the progress of the play, and individual performances will stand out.

In the Army and Navy game not one-twentieth of the spectators were able to identify the players. I sat between Bill Edwards and Sol Metzger, and neither could tell who was carrying the ball.

There was such a howl from the fans after this game that the recalcitrant colleges decided to do better in the future. First Princeton decided to wear the numerals and Harvard followed. It now remains for Yale, the Army and Navy to fall in line and all will be lovely. If not, then the rule in the book will settle the question for good and all.

WHEN colleges like Penn, Cornell, Pitt, Dartmouth, W. and J. —in fact, all of the leading teams are willing to number the players, it doesn't seem right to allow three or four colleges to gum up the works.

Suggest Change in Forward Pass Rule

ANOTHER suggestion was made and, if adopted, will make the game more interesting. The officials believed that the rule which states a forward pass should be made from a spot five yards behind the line of scrimmage and the passer allowed to throw the ball from any spot behind the scrimmage line.

It was pointed out that hundreds of passes were made during a season from the four and four and one-half yard marks without penalty and the officials found it difficult to inflict penalties. This was especially true when the passer started as if for an end run and threw the ball after traveling across the field.

This would be a drastic step for the rules committee to take, but great benefits could be derived from it. The linemen would have no time to run into the secondary defense and the defensive men would have to be more on the alert when the ball is passed.

A. C. Tyler, of Princeton, suggested that something be done to equalize the penalties for interfering with a forward pass by the offensive and defensive teams. If a defensive man interferes with the catcher, the ball goes to the offensive side at the spot where the foul was committed.

WHEN no field judge is officiating, it was suggested that the umpire be official timer and hold the watch instead of the head linesman. This, however, has been done in most of the games this year, with good results.

More Suggestions for Rules Committee

THE old question regarding the exact location of the line of scrimmage also came up. In this case the rules are not clear and a new one is needed to explain it. The following will be submitted to the gridiron solons:

"The line of scrimmage shall be formed and the ball put into play at the spot where it was declared dead by the referee."

In two big games last season teams put the ball in play two to four yards back of the spot where it was declared dead by the referee and the plays were not allowed. "In one instance a touchdown was called back."

Last year in a game in Boston a player ran out of bounds for a short distance, then ran on the field of play and caught a forward pass. This caused a big argument, and at the meeting last fall it was ruled that the play was permissible so long as the receiver of the pass was in the field of play when he caught the ball.

However, after seeing that play pulled in some of the big games the local officials decided it was contrary to the spirit of the rules, it was decidedly unfair and should be abolished. The field of play is marked off for the purpose of keeping the players within the sidelines, and that rule should be observed.

The following will be submitted to the governing body: "An inside kick or forward pass may not be caught or recovered by a player who has been out of bounds on the play."

More protection for the man who makes a forward pass also was urged. According to the present rules, the passer, after he has thrown the ball, can be run into and thrown to the ground without penalty.

The committee will be asked to clearly define offense play in the 1920 edition of the rules. There is nothing in the book now which explains that common foul.

THE officials present were: Charles J. McCarthy, W. G. Crowell, A. C. Tyler, A. M. Palmer, C. E. Price, Eddie Bennis, H. Davidson and Bill Roper.

SCRAPS ABOUT SCRAPPERS

Christmas cards are out. The enterprising promoters had their announcements prepared early. There's no chance to go wrong. The Olympia, National, Cambria and Auditorium will stage banner holiday attractions. Twenty-four bouts are on the list, the coast of clubs for Christmas afternoon.

Joe Benjamin and Joe Wells are in the wind-up of the Olympia. Wells has faced the best of the lightweight class, including a coast lad, rapidly is winning a place among the leaders.

Artie Root, of Cleveland, and Harold Fares, of Newark, will do headline duty at the National. Root also has proved triumphant against the featherweights. Fares is one of the most promising boys turned out in Jersey in many seasons.

Jack Ward, the Elizabeth (N. J.) lad, was heard winning consistently during the last six months, will face Stanley Hinkie, the A. E. star. In the main season at Johnny Burns' Cambria, A. C. Hinkie should make it interesting for Ward.

Middleweights will be the attraction at the Auditorium, with Eddie Revoire, Herman Hinkle, persistent challenger, taking on the rugged Herman Miller. Revoire has not given up hope of destroying some prospective champion. He has been fighting well of late.

The Olympia semi-weekly brings together Bill Brown, a likely future Joe for Dempsey, and the rib-cracking Salter Petrovsky. The Philadelphia Arena Young Joe Borrali, in the flyweight, the remainder of the program, shows Joe Tipton vs. Young

MOVIE OF A MAN AND A GUM MACHINE. A four-panel comic strip showing a man's frustration with a gum machine. Panel 1: 'DIGS FOR A PENNY TO PUT IN SLOT SO THAT GUM MAY BE HAD'. Panel 2: 'PUTS IN PENNY AND PUSHES A PROJECTING BRASS ROD SO THAT GUM MAY DROP INTO OPENING AT BOTTOM'. Panel 3: 'PUSHES ROD VIGOROUSLY WITHOUT ANY RESULT WHATSOEVER'. Panel 4: 'BECOMES IRRITATED AND MAKES CLOSE-UP INSPECTION OF LOWER SECTION OF MACHINE - PUSHING ROD AT THE SAME TIME'. Panel 5: 'PUSHES ROD WITH INCREASING VIOLENCE AND A GREAT CLATTER'. Panel 6: 'BEATS ON MACHINE AND SHAKES IT HOPING THAT GUM WILL DROP'. Panel 7: 'VIOLENCE SUBSIDES BUT GIVES ROD ONE FINAL PUSH - NO GUM'. Panel 8: 'PENNY GONE - NO GUM. DOESN'T MIND LOSING A PENNY BUT DOES OBJECT TO BEING ROBBED OF IT.' Signed 'BRIGGS 19'.

FANS ON EDGE FOR BIG GAME TONIGHT. Germantown Victory Over Camden Will Reduce Skeeters' Lead to Single Game. PLAYER RULE IS CHANGED. League Statistics. EASTERN LEAGUE. Camden, 11 3 296 Reading, 6 8 429 Trenton, 7 2 500 Philadelphia, 4 10 336. SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK. Tonight—Camden at Germantown. Thursday—Germantown at De Vere; Reading at Camden. Friday—Camden at North Philadelphia. Saturday—De Vere at Reading. OTHER GAMES TONIGHT. American League: St. Columbia vs. Cincinnati; Boston vs. New York; Cleveland vs. Detroit; Philadelphia vs. St. Louis. National League: Philadelphia vs. St. Louis; Cincinnati vs. Cleveland; Boston vs. New York; Chicago vs. Pittsburgh.

DID GEORGE BURNS SLUMP? YES, ALL THE WAY TO .296. Tioga's "Old Married Man" Crept Up in Hitting During 1919 and Topped All Mack Athletes. By EDWIN J. POLLOCK. GEORGE BURNS had a tough year last season. To some it seemed as if George was passing through a couple of tough years. The Tioga newsworld, who considers himself an old married man by this time, for he's been married as long as eight months, bent a path between the bench and the dugout while he was summering on Mr. Mack's lawn and while he was touring through points adjoining and east of the Mississippi.

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How Mack's Batters Hit During 1919 Campaign. Official Averages Prove Babe Ruth's Home Run Record of 29 Circuit Clouts—Cobb's .384. proved himself the best walter under Ban Johnson's supervision and he was not offered a job by any one—not even Childs. Graney walked 105 times. Ruth walked 101 times, so that he wouldn't mind a hike from California to Boston if he goes broke. Maybe he'll be sold to St. Louis and won't have to walk so far. Maurrie Shannon, who deserted our A's for the Red Sox, also proved a good walker, but he did his hoofing from the bench to the plate and back again. Maurrie fanned seventy times, which gives him the title in this department. He hit .263, which is great for any one coming from Jersey City.

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300,000 AMERICANS DRAW NEW VISION OF CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR

No M. P.'s Asking for Passes, No Chow Lines, No Reveilles, No Hikes, No Sentry Duty, No Nothin' for the Ex-Doughboy

By GRANTLAND RICE

The Sportsman's Christmas Dream

He saw before him, through the opening mists A world of hard, fair play. Where each had learned the rough law of the Game That all must pay for any price that came By endless struggle and by rugged toil. Where Trouble was a trainer worth the price— Where Envy and Conceit and Bickering Were like raw fumbles down the open field To be rolled up into a heavy score; Where all could take the smashes sent by Fate And fight it out until the game was done— Content to let this final record live— "He gave the Game the best he had to give."

A Year Ago Today

NEARLY 300,000 Americans can draw this vision from a year ago today! A gray mist settling across the Rhine— Little German towns patrolled by khaki and the rumble of army trucks along old-fashioned cobblestone streets— Mostly rain and fog— An endless number of beans and bacon with turkeys flying at a record height—

AND the endless query running along the line of nine divisions: "When are we gonna start home?"

Another Christmas

THIS will be another Christmas. There are no M. P.'s asking for a pass today. No chow lines forming in the rain. Turkeys are flying as high as ever, but beans and bacon are no longer a compulsory diet. And there are few generals around to fix a cold and clammy eye upon the offender, who, thinking of Christmas back home, forgot to salute.

NO REVEILLES—no hikes—no sentry duty. No nothin'.

England's Christmas Wish

IF ENGLISH sportsmen were given one Christmas wish for the year ahead we have an idea it would be along this line: A heavyweight boxer who could last at least a few rounds without diving headlong for the mat in the wake of the first punch. The ring records made by leading English heavyweights in the last ten years have begun to fester. The English custom boxing highly, and it is deeply annoying not to be able to see more than a minute or two of fighting when one of their heavyweights steps into the ring against a first-class opponent.

ENOUGH of a thing can frequently become annoying.

Last call for Christmas! a box of twenty-five Henrietta ADMIRALS Eisenlohr's Masterpiece will please any man who enjoys good cigars. OTTO EISENLOHR & BROS., INCORPORATED Established 1850. Image of a cigar.

Pull-Proof Ties The Gift Supreme. For Last-Minute Shoppers All Our Stores Are Open Till Midnight Tonight and Wednesday Night. Neckwear 65c to \$5.00 Silk Shirts \$8.50 to 15.00 Madras Shirts 2.50 to 6.00 Mufflers 1.00 to 15.00 Gloves 1.50 to 6.00 Silver Belt Buckles 2.00 to 10.00 All Gifts Handsomely Boxed. Guilford's All Ten Stores Open Evenings The Largest Exclusive Haberdashers in the State. 1038 Market Street, 1225 Market Street, 1305 Market Street, 1518 Market Street, 1430 Chestnut Street, 27 South 15th Street, 1416 South Penn Sq., Broad & Girard Aves., 3647 Woodland Ave., 2436 N. Front Street.

for the Cold Garage. No need to put up your car this winter—and miss all the fine sunny days. And a Neverout Heater helps solve the Coal Problem. A Sensible Christmas Gift for the Motorist. The Neverout Auto Radiator and Garage Heater. Heats your radiator and motor FIRST, then your garage. Uses Kerosene. Approved by leading Insurance Companies. Tenth successful season. A safe purchase with our guarantee. Must be as represented or your money back. Come in and see demonstration in our showroom. Rose Manufacturing Co. Dept. E. Heater Division 910 Arch Street, Phila. Phone, Filbert 5836. Price \$27.50 Complete Kerosene Heater. No installation required. U. S. Pat. 1,180,000 Canada Pat. 1,180,000 Others Pending.

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