

# Princeton Owes Much of Success This Year to Drop-Kicking Ability of Ken Smith

## TRY-FOR-POINT RULE STRESSES NEED FOR MORE DROP-KICKERS

**Princeton, for Instance, Has Won Three Games by Calling On Ken Smith at the Opportune Moment.**

Tigers' Alertness Affected Yale

By STONEY McLENN

ONE reason advanced for the try-for-point rule, which has helped to resemble the football situation this year, was that it would develop drop and place kickers—in fact, that was the only good reason for the new rule. It may not have developed Ken Smith at Princeton, for he was a kicker before the 1922 grid rules were written, but because of the Tiger lad's true skill with his toe, the Orange and Black eleven is undefeated. Bill Hooper, using Smith at the right time, won at least three games where drop-kicking skill was needed.

In the Virginia game, on a wet field and in a driving rainstorm, Ken Smith who uses his left foot to drop-kick the ball over the cross-bar, got three of the Tigers' five points. In Cleveland, it was Smith's successful try-for-point kicks that won the game, 21-18. And Yale was beaten, 3-0, because Smith made good on one or two tosses, while O'Hearn failed to do what he was sent into the game to do—the score.

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It is not within the power of a gridiron coach to train a drop-kicker who is surefire in important games. The human element enters into the field goal to such an extent that a player may kick twenty-five in practice and miss one effort in actual combat. However, we desire to give full credit to Bill Hooper, for so far as it was possible for a coach to do so, he developed Smith to the point where he won the important games for the Tigers.

If the try-for-point rule is in the game next year—which we hope it will not be—a number of leading coaches will pay more attention to the drop-kicking department. Penn, Penn State and Lafayette, for example, three leading teams that lost games because they missed the goal after touchdown, may give several players a foothold and ask them to carry it with them wherever they may go next spring and summer.

Although Dot Warner is one wise and experienced coach who prefers the place-kick to the drop-kick, we differ with him. In placement-kicking, three men play an important part—the snapper-back, the player who holds the ball and the chap who boots it. If the pass from center is high or wide, or if the holder does not get it in the proper position rapidly, the kicker can't possibly succeed.

With the drop-kick, one player performs the stunt practically alone. A poor pass from center might retard his effort, but he has a better chance to grab a ball that is high or wide and kick it than the man who is to hold the seal for a place-kick box of getting and giving the tact a led snap. Yet, the new rule pushed in the *Broadfoot* a drop-kicker at Princeton and, we repeat, if the try-for-point rule survives, there will be more skilled toe-sackers next year.

### Pumpelly's Great Field Goal Remembered

A PRINCETON man said Saturday night that he put in one of the most uncomfortable minutes of his entire life in the final quarter of the game between the Tigers and Bulldogs. He was one man who had been among those present, and betting, when Pumpelly saved the day in 1916 for Yale with that historic 60-yard drop-kick.

Last Saturday O'Hearn stood in his own territory and swung his powerful right leg against the ball that was aimed for the goal posts 57 yards away. Now the Eli boaster had presently no chance to get the three points. It would have been little short of a miracle had that ball traveled over the cross-bar from what was rather difficult angle. It actually did fall on the goal line which, perhaps, was 10 full yards short of a score.

O'Hearn really was using the drop-kick method of punting—with a lop-sided ball and the prayer that the ball might go over and tie the score. It was good form, and a prayer that the ball might go over and tie the score. For Pumpelly did very much the same thing.

PUMPELLY had small hope that his kick would score for Yale on that memorable afternoon. He was drop-kicking what was really a punt. But when the ball hit on the cross-bar and went on over to score, Pumpelly became a hero. Is any wonder that Princeton men, remembering the uncanny trick that made them safe when Pumpelly was doing Yale's kicking, should hold their breath when O'Hearn tried to save the Blue eleven by the same sort of a desperate effort?

### Effect Upon Yale of Tiger's Alertness

THE psychological effect upon Yale of the Tiger alertness in gathering in tumults was one of the big factors in the game last Saturday. Mention has been made of the fact that the Eli, throughout the afternoon, signaled for a free kick upon all but two occasions when a punt was in the air. And yet, strange fate decreed that it should be Princeton fumble, early in the game, and a Yale recovery of the ball, that nearly gave the Bulldogs a touchdown victory.

Yens Johnson, a Pittsburgher, who thumbed textbooks at Princeton six and more years ago, was regarding the timidity of the Eli's which caused them to free-catch punts and recalled the late Hickey Baker when he was a Tiger star.

"Remember how Hickey would stand 4 or 5 yards behind where a punt was going to fall and then rush forward and catch it while on the run down the field," quipped Johnson. Yes, we do remember Baker's great skill and aggressive manner of grabbing kicks. It was a sight worth while to watch him snatch a pigskin out of the air and carry it back for a good gain.

Baker's method was dangerous, true enough. If he fumbled the ball and some of his mates were near him to retrieve it, the enemy might get an easy touchdown.

BUT we do not recall that Baker made a serious fumble throughout his brilliant gridiron career. As a matter of fact, because he was on the run when he caught the ball and a hard man to stop, he invariably made substantial runs whenever an opponent pointed so that he could do his spectacular charging catch.

### Bezdek a Real Organizer

PHILADELPHIANS must wait until Penn State's Lions have fought Pitt's Panthers on Thanksgiving Day before they will know whether Hugo Bezdek will manage our Phillips for the next three seasons. But in the meantime we may rest assured that Hugo is giving Harry Baker's offer serious consideration. We also must expect that the strongest possible pressure will be brought to bear by Penn State men to have their athletic director remain a college sports tator.

State men cannot understand why Bezdek would give serious thought to the Phillips' offer. It is not a question of money—Bezdek admitted that to the State Athletic Committee. We have learned that the college men would, if it was necessary to keep their coach, pay whatever salary was asked by him.

But Hugo has played absolutely fair so far as my money was concerned. With him it is merely a question of whether he should quit college athletics to enter the harder and more exacting professional baseball field.

State men may know this; again they may not. But if we judge human nature correctly, Hugo Bezdek is at heart an organizer, a builder of athletic organizations. He has labored faithfully at State and his reward has been football teams that always have been ranked high. Now that his system is established at the Penn-Pennsylvania College in the mountains, he has little opportunity to satisfy his craving for organization. But he would have all the chance that any builder of athletic systems could ask if he came to Philadelphia.

IT IS because Philadelphians appreciate Hugo Bezdek's real ability as an organizer that they want him as manager of the Phillips. At the same time, we can understand why Penn State is fighting to keep their spirited athletic leader. It is a serious problem for Bezdek and his real friends are willing to have him take his own time in solving it.

### About Sportsmen One Meets

ROY THOMAS, the ball player who brought about the foul-strike rule when he was with the Phillips, was hurrying down Chestnut street yesterday with all the dash and pep of a twenty-one-year-old athlete.

"Don't know what I will do next year," said Roy in answer to the usual question. "I will not manage Houston, where they wanted me. Too hot down there. Mrs. Thomas can't stand it—and she feels that after thirty years of married life we should live where we enjoy life and are together."

Did you get that—thirty years of married life? It seems only a year or two since Roy Thomas was worrying National League pitchers by fouling off every ball they buried at him which he did not like to swing at.

LAST year, while in Houston, Roy went up there and showed the boys how to hit them in a pinch. You guess Thomas' age; we hesitate to do it publicly. But few players at his age can swing a bat, let alone hit the curve and avoid a young pitcher.

## OVERBROOK BOOMS SQUASH RACQUETS

Golf Club Gets Jump on Rivals to Develop New Blood

### JUNIOR TOURNAMENT ON

By SANDY McNIBLICK

THE Overbrook Golf Club, the "greatest little club in the country," always a trifle ahead of its rivals in starting something new, has put another one over this fall.

Anxious to develop some fresh blood for the squash racquets teams, even the contenders in the Interclub Squash Racquets League, Overbrook, decided to hold a junior squash tournament to arouse the enthusiasm of the younger element.

The prime movers in inaugurating this innovation were William F. Hartigan, star boxer as well as a competing good squash player, and W. F. Newberry, both members of the Squash Committee.

The services of John F. Friel, one of Fred Tompkins' able assistants at the Philadelphia Racquet Club, was obtained to start the juniors on the right road by grounding them correctly in the basic principles of the game.

Several of the boys assimilated what they were taught with a rapidity that surprised both their coach and the members of the committee. Others were slower, but all showed more interest than had been anticipated.

### Round Robin.

Eventually it was decided to hold a Round Robin tour so that it would be possible to see just how each boy would come out in actual competition with his rivals.

There were more than a dozen entries and some forty odd matches had already been played. The tournament will continue through Friday and the winner, and possibly the third-place holder will be given an individual expert coaching in the finer points of the game as their rewards of victory.

Friel devoted himself at first only to teaching the class how to hold a squash racquet, how to strike the ball properly and something about footwork and court-covering.

He could not go into all the details he would have liked to take up for lack of time, but the fortunate prize winners in the present tourney will be tipped off on the subtleties of angle and spin and various passes, such as a back-hand stroke that is good for a novice, not merely a defensive weapon, and some of the other secrets Friel had picked up from watching and playing with Jack Souder, Stanley Pearson, the national amateur squash champion, and other experts at the Racquet Club.

### Allen Is Leading

Sam Allen is leading in the round robin tourney at present with six wins and only a single defeat. But C. A. "Cobie" Watson is close upon four victories and no defeats. J. N. Hartigan, John Cranford and John Jackson are tied with a pair of triumphs and one trimming, while Courtney Johnson and Ted Campbell are next in line with a pair of games on the right side of the ledger and only one black mark against their names.

Frank Stevens has split even in his four games, while S. Walker and Robert Sax have each managed to drop the one match they have played. Henry Johnson has had his first defeat, but he has triumphed four times. Harry Chapman has yet to land a match to even up a bit for his two defeats.

Paul Johnson and Joseph Gallagher, though entered, have played no matches as yet.

A member of the Overbrook Golf Club by the way, was the first amateur squash racquets champion. This was the late Dr. John W. McKey.

"Jack" Miskey, as he was better known than by his more formal title, captured the crown in the first national tourney ever staged, way back in 1907, and repeated in 1908, and again in 1910.

He is considered by many experts to have been the most brilliant player of his day in the game. Before illness sapped his vitality, he was practically unbeatable by a fellow amateur, and even when in poor health, as was the case in 1910, he managed to win out by his amazing versatility.

He is said to have had a positive jinx for playing just the kind of squash that the average player likes. Most of the crowd found hard to fathom.

For Bill Hartigan, who is now doing his part in bringing others forward, is still one of the stars of the country, having been runner-up to Stanley Pearson in both the Pennsylvania State and national squash racquets tournaments on a number of occasions.

### Amateur Sports

The Brian A. C. hundred the Blue Jays is an independent gridiron till Sun after Thanksgiving.

The Lenox A. C. would like to arrange games with third and fourth divisional teams, away from home.

The Franklin A. C. has open dates, and the Penn A. C. and the like.

The All-American A. C. is desirous of meeting games with first-class teams, and the start of each round, spectators felt as if it was Pitts' finish.

But Charley pulled the unexpected and his gamblers won for him the fascination of the fans. Chaney pummeled his opponent's body with rights and lefts, swatting at close quarters to the head, but Charley kept on going with surprising stamina.

Early in the seventh round Pitts injured his right hand and ended the spectators felt as if it was Pitts' finish.

Another knockdown occurred in the seventh session. A right hook clipped Pitts on the point of the chin and he took a nose dive into the ring. But Charley leaped to his feet as soon as he could. Referee Grillo being able to count out "one."

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