

Coach Ralph Leonard Surveys History And Fundamentals of Modern Lacrosse

By Ralph G. Leonard
(Editor's note: This article is reprinted with numerous revisions, from that written by Coach Leonard for the WISCONSIN COLLEGIAN REVIEW two years ago.)
Contrary to the prevalent opinion, lacrosse did not originate with the American Indian. The game was brought to this country some nine hundred years ago by the Vikings. It being this native game, the Indians took up the game and its endurance and strength was the chief physical characteristics of the Indian race. The game which they played was developed along these lines. For instance, the whole surrounding country-side, the distance between villages, was their field of play. After the teaching of the game to the white men who settled in Canada, the sport was developed along more scientific principles. When a maximum sized field was universally accepted, it necessitated team play and skill in footwork and passing.

Popularity of Sport

Lacrosse is now the Canadian national game and is being played with a decided increase of interest in England and the United States. It was first that the general character of the game would allow so much rough play that it would be impossible for the game to be universally accepted by preparatory schools. However, expert refereeing, proper spirit and knowledge of the game have made it possible for schools to enjoy this spectacular sport.

The sport has become so popular in college circles that the United States Lacrosse League some time ago found it necessary to organize another division of its league. Now colleges are creating the field every year, among them being Rutgers, Princeton, Columbia and New York University. Through New England, almost every college has taken up the sport or is ready to do so. The largest attendance at four intercollegiate lacrosse games at one university last spring was two-thirds greater than the attendance at their latest baseball game. One reason for the unprecedented increase in the interest of the sport is the joy and thrill of personal contact which is so largely lacking in other sporting events.

Game Not Dangerous

Fears taken from the history of the sport have been and intentionally prove that it is not a dangerous one. During 1922 and 1923 when I coached the team of the Brookline Polytechnic County Division, there was not a single serious injury, whereas there were a dozen fractures in the other sport. At Williams last year, there was but one accident of any sort, a slight scuffing wound less than a half-inch long. Not in my memory in the spirited Oxford-Cambridge match across the water last year.

While it is usually thought that the danger in any game diminishes as the skill and hence of the players increases, my experience has indicated that with players of high or no previous acquaintance with the game, as at Williams lacrosse is one of the safest if not the safest of intercollegiate outdoor games.

Explains Fundamentals

Fundamentally, the science of lacrosse is very similar to that of soccer, basketball or hockey. The lacrosse stick, however, introduces several new elements of skill and strategy peculiar to the game. To make clear a few of the elementary points of the sport for the onlooker as well as for the prospective player, a word or two of explanation might not be amiss.
Twelve men comprise a lacrosse team. The following positions are generally laid out in a straight line from one goal to the other: goalkeeper, point, cover-point, first defense, second defense, third defense, center, first attack, in-home and out-home.

Passing
There are two types of passes. The short pass should be made while in motion at its speed and in any direction. It should be short snappy and accurate. The underhand shovel pass is the type of pass most generally and

successfully used. All passes should be made in anticipation of the position of team mates when they receive them. The long pass is made on nearly a straight line to the player who is to receive it. The over-the-shoulder or "slingshot" type of pass is the best although it should be made as nearly flat as possible to permit receiving while the receiver is in motion. While in play, the ball should not be passed too soon as this gives a defensive man a chance to intercept it. Spirit of back in running in order to lose the man guarding you and by adding you are ready for a return pass.

Picking Up the Ball

To pick up the ball from the ground, the player should approach the ball at its speed and when it is enough to get the ball under full control, should bend over naturally with the end of the handle not directly in front of him, but to one side and scoop it up. When the ball enters the net it should be in the position for a pass. The stick must be held firmly in both hands if an opponent is after the ball.
(To Be Continued)

DEBATERS PREPARE FOR NEXT TRIANGULAR MEET

Dickinson and Bucknell Furnish Opposition for Penn State on March Seventh

With the triangle debate with Dickinson and Bucknell only eleven days away, and George Washington University, Gettysburg and Oregon Agricultural College scheduled before the Eastern holidays, the Nittany forensics squad is working hard in preparation for the coming contest.
For the triangle debate on March sixth the Penn State negative team will journey to Bucknell, while the affirmative will meet Dickinson in the Auditorium. The following topic has been chosen for argument: Resolved, That Congress should have power by a two-thirds vote to declare effective a Federal law pronounced unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

Are Old Rivals

The Nittany forensics squad with Dickinson and Bucknell date back to the earliest years of Penn State's debating history and a keen rivalry between these institutions has arisen. Judging from former debates the teams have always been well matched and the victories are about evenly divided. The Nittany squad this year will enter the debate on March sixth with one more victory than defeat to its credit.
Following this encounter the debating team will go to Lock Haven on March fourth to meet the George Washington forensics men. On March twenty-seventh the squad will be taken to York to engage the Gettysburg debaters, while probably the hardest match of all will be staged when the Oregon Agricultural college team appears here on April eighth.

Two Man Debate

According to arrangements made with the western debaters the match will have only two speakers on each side instead of the usual number of five. At each man will be allowed eighteen minutes for constructive argument and seven for refutation, the debate will be of the nature of an endurance contest for the principals.
From the success of the Oregon Agricultural college's early debates it is likely that the Nittany team will meet one of the best forensics teams in the country in its encounter with the westerners. Included in the colleges the Oregon men will meet on their tour are the counties are Dites college, the present holder of the world debating title Ohio State, Syracuse, Michigan and Chicago.

"COLLEGE HONOR" TOPIC OF DISCUSSION GROUPS

(Continued from first page)

stated in his talk to the groups that Penn State does not need in honor system with all its rules but that she needs a spirit of honor. He said that in all matters of personal conduct the ultimate test of judgment is the enlightened conscience of the individual. Every man has and should have his own personal code of honor yet it may serve a good purpose to crystallize the sentiment of a majority of the students into a statement that may fairly represent the ideals of the students.

Honor Code

The Penn State Code is already in operation in a large measure, on this campus, and the procedure to be followed by establishing it will be very simple. Doctor Fletcher said that it should be adopted by the students, after a full discussion, as an adequate statement of the ideals of the student body in this particular respect. No rules would be necessary, but it would be desirable to have a simple statement of procedure which could be modified from time to time.

Such a statement might include the following points: First, the application of the Penn State Code shall rest primarily with the conscience of the individual. Secondly, the function of the Code Committee, appointed by the Student Council, shall be to create sentiment for the full observance of the Code by printing it in every issue of the COLLEGIAN, and by presenting this subject on Scholarship Day with discussion of the principle involved and the difficulties met in its application. As the first point of this statement may be included the fact that the class room shall be in charge of an instructor at all times.

According to the decision reached by the leaders these groups have all agreed points of discussion for the various groups, which should serve to put this system into action. Although this is the last topic of the series several groups have decided to continue with the discussion of vital problems on the Penn State campus.

R. L. HUMPHREYS SPEAKS TO ENGINEERING SCHOOL

At the meeting of the members of the Engineering School held last Friday afternoon in Old Chapel, Mr. R. L. Humphreys, vice-president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, spoke on the "Outlook of Engineering." Mr. Humphreys said that the Engineering world of today demands men with executive ability, men who consider their profession one of service. Mr. Humphreys thought that the essential for service was the ability to express one's self in good English; the ability to think anywhere while on one's feet and the speaker stressed especially the quality of being able to mix with men. He showed plainly that an engineer ought to have an all round development.

EIGHTEEN FIVES REMAIN IN FRATERNITY TOURNAMENT

Six Contests Carded for Tonight—Undefeated Teams Complete in Semi-final Round

Battling hard for a place in the semi-final round twelve fraternities entered teams displayed a snappy brand of basketball in the Army last Thursday night. Only six more elimination contests now remain before the semi-finals and thirteen of the original forty-seven quintets still remain undefeated.

In the first round contest of the evening the Chi Epsilon team emerged victorious over the Phi Gamma Delta by a 17 to 4 gain. Delta Epsilon handily defeated the Phi Kappa team by a 14 to 8 score. In the third match between the Alpha Sigma Phi and Lambda Chi Alpha five, the former took the winning end of a 9 to 6 tally.

In one of the closest games of the evening the Omega Delta Epsilon players defeated the Phi Kappa players by a 4 to 3 score. In the final contest Chi Lambda Zeta, based on the superior playing of the Phi Delta Theta quintet, by a 13 to 7 count.

As a single defeat prevents a team from entering the semi-finals it is not likely that more than sixteen teams will meet the requirements after tonight's games. The 11 victories which have won both their matches thus far number but thirteen.

Tuesday's Games

Leta Sigma Rho vs Sigma Tau Phi
Phi Xi vs Delta Sigma Chi
Alpha Zeta vs Phi Theta Pi
Delta Tau Delta vs Omega Mu Rho
Sigma Alpha Epsilon vs Phi Epsilon Pi
Kappa Sigma vs Sigma Nu
Omega Epsilon Delta vs Iota

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Anyone may attend the tests that will be carried on by the Mechanical Engineering department during the next few weeks with this machine. Time of the tests can be had by telephoning to the department.

"Y" HOLDS NEXT SOCIAL FOR FRESHMEN FRIDAY

The next freshman "Y" social will be held at the Omega Delta Epsilon fraternity on Friday night from eight to ten-thirty o'clock. All freshmen whose names begin with H, I, J and K are invited to attend and a special invitation is extended to the new men who entered college this month. Those socials not only provide a good time, but also help the freshmen to become better acquainted.

PLAYERS ENTER LITTLE THEATRE TOURNAMENT

"Night" Presented Two Years Ago in Auditorium, Chosen for New York Contest

For the first time since their formation five years ago, the Penn State Players have entered the annual Little Theatre Tournament and the David Landon Cup Match. The contest will take place at New York City from May fourth to ninth under the auspices of the Manhattan Little Theatre Club.
The Players have chosen for this contest, "Night," a play famous in James O'Connell's presentation in the Auditorium two years ago. The cast which is to be chosen this week will be composed of four men and one woman.

For one act plays will be staged each evening of the tournament by four different Little Theatre groups for five evenings or until the twenty presentations have been shown. Five judges will select four out of the total number shown as the best plays presented. The productions will be judged according to the following set standard: first prize will be given for presentation twenty-five for acting fifteen for setting and ten per cent for selection of play.

The four best plays will be shown Thursday afternoon to decide the winner. In the evening the winning production will again be presented and

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LUTHERAN STUDENTS PLAN MEETING AT PENN STATE

For the purpose of considering the problems on the American College campus the New England and Middle Atlantic branch of the Lutheran student association of America will hold a meeting in the Lutheran Church of State College from February twenty-seventh to March first.

Two speakers have been secured to address the conference. One is Dr. Hanson, president of Gettysburg college who recently spoke in the Sunday chapel services. Prior to the acceptance of his present position, he was very active in the work of the Lutheran Church. The other speaker is Dr. Otto Schreier of the Holy Communion Church.

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of lacrosse. The quintet is divided into six sub-groups which have annual conferences and which combine to form the national organization that convenes once every four years. It is composed of Lutheran students from the various colleges of the United States and Canada. Each institution is requested to send if possible one or two representatives to the conventions.



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