

SPORTSMEN ARE TALKING ABOUT



Eastern Teams Playing Best Football Other Timely Sport Topics

By TOMMY CLARK.

THE football games thus far indicate to me that the western teams are not up to their last year's strength and that the best work is being done by the eastern eleven. Michigan, Wisconsin and Chicago have not shown the form expected of them in my opinion. The fault lies in the caliber of the players more than anything else. The coaches and captains have done fairly well considering the material on hand.

In the case of Michigan the line is effective, but the backs are weak. Captain Patterson, Allmendinger, Trap-hagen, Müsser and the rest of them in the line are each and every one able to hold back his opponent for an indefinite length of time. The Michigan forwards are big, and their bigness alone is a sufficient block to an opponent no matter how hard he may try to slip by. Behind these men the backs are able to work with a most satisfying degree of surety that they will be given every opportunity to get fairly started on their mission of carrying the ball before some troublesome tackler bursts into view to block progress.

The backs, however, while fast, are too light. Hughtitt, Catlett and Galt get away very quickly and are all right in a broken field, but they are not rugged enough to batter a line with effectiveness. Torbet at end is successful in handling forward passes.

Torbet's specialty is pivoting on two or three toes of one foot, reaching high up in the air and landing greedily on to the oval as it comes spinning along toward him. The Detroiter is a human gyroscope. He never seems to lose his balance. Adeline Genes and her dancing proclivities have an equal in the Michigan end when he is in active pursuit of a forward pass, and the result is that he is generally successful.

The showing of Wisconsin against Purdue and of Michigan against the Michigan Agricultural college were not encouraging, and the teams have not improved since those contests as warrant classing them with either Harvard, Princeton or Yale. I do not believe I am doing any western team an injustice when I say that any of those three eastern teams could defeat any western eleven at this time.

and halfback for the past three years, appeared at Andrews field and put on a football suit for the first time this season. The big fellow jogged around

ship a year ago, only to be deposed last midsummer by President James E. McAleer, is to succeed Bill Dahlen as manager of the Brooklyn National

league baseball team. "Bad Bill" has been provided with a billet in the International league by President Ebbets, so the story goes. Ebbets con-

trols the champion Newark, but will relieve his successful manager, Harry Smith, to make room for Dahlen. While President Charles H. Ebbets of

The present baseball champions of the world and environs are unquestionably the greatest club that ever represented Philadelphia, but they are not

That Courtney is still capable of keeping abreast of the times while at the same time retaining his affection for the best traditions of rowing is shown by his experiments with that new queer "shovel handle" sweep. This extraordinary implement is supposed to give an oarsman not only a better grip, but to make it almost impossible for him to catch the water with the blade at any other than the correct angle.

The new car has undoubtedly interested the old coach, but it is not believed for a moment that Cornell will adopt the weird contraption. Surely half the beauty of a light oared shell depends upon the Spartan simplicity of the equipment.

If those artificial aids to speed are to be permitted, why not go a step further and equip the shells with motors? The idea might be developed in other fields. Let the pole vaulter "take off" from a spring board, the golfer lie down on the putting green and pot the hole with a billiard cue; give the polo player a stick with a head big enough to make it impossible to miss the ball while engaged in the wildest gallop.

ATHLETES TAKING ACTIVE PART IN COLLEGE GRIDIRON CAMPAIGN



Photos by American Press Association.

No. 1.—Tabor, Cornell varsity halfback. 2.—Green, Pennsylvania lineman. 3.—Carpel, Michigan veteran, showing how to carry the ball when running around end or through tackle (notice his right arm outstretched to ward off tacklers). 4.—Whiting, the Chicago varsity guard and center. 5.—Strait of Princeton kicking goal from placement. "Stew" Baker held the ball. 6.—Pontius, Michigan fullback. 7.—Hayes, who has been aiding in coaching some of the Wisconsin players.

Stahl to Get Dahlen's Job.
Garland (Jake) Stahl, who led the Boston Red Sox to a world's champion-

The "Big Noise"

Harvard looms up as the "big noise" of the gridiron year. Her line and back field are both impressive, and the men work together with the precision and denoting the highest quality of team work.

Just why the eastern teams, as a whole, have better material than those of the west is not yet determined. Probably the fact that there are more preparatory schools in the east devoting great attention to football is important. The eastern "prep" schools are natural hot houses for the propagation of budding pickin' chasers.

Yale's coaches are more than pleased that all their crippled stars have returned in time to join in practice. Markie, on whom the team places most confidence as a drop kicker, is out again, and so is Cornell who is a valuable back field sub, although a trifle light to hold a place regularly. Fortunately, the great kicker, out of the hospital, is also in action again.

Brown university football took stock a jump when Bartlett, varsity tackle

Brooklyn is firm in his denial of any contemplated change in the management of the Dodgers, those close to the inner circles of the national pastime maintain that Stahl will go across the Brooklyn bridge. All American league ties were severed when McAleer handed Jake his unconditional release.

Ban Johnson is a bosom friend of Stahl. He tried to find an American league berth for him at St. Louis, but Bob Hedges signed Branch Rickey. Johnson is in no position to prevent Stahl from going over to the rival major league.

Courtney won't resign.

Rumors to the contrary, Charles E. Courtney, the veteran rowing coach of Cornell, has not the slightest intention of asking to be put on the retired list. It is a huge joke to say that the "grand old man" has grown so decrepit of late that his days of usefulness are over. Courtney is now in better physical condition than most men half his age, and a recent visitor to Ithaca reports that he was amazed at the activity of the famous coach.

Courtney is not the type of man that could take things easy in an advisory capacity. He is essentially a man of action and, judging from his present condition, has many more years of service before him.

Courtney certainly gets an awful grouch on at times, especially when the lure of football threatens to break up his plans. He then threatens to do all kinds of weird things. He has been complaining bitterly of the way candidates for the varsity crew have been forsaking the boat for the gridiron.

U. of W. at Poughkeepsie.

There is a likelihood that the University of Washington will again be represented by a crew at the Poughkeepsie rowing regatta next year. The Chamber of Commerce of the city of Seattle wrote recently to Courtney asking him for his opinion upon the desirability of sending a crew from the University of Washington to the intercollegiate regatta. Courtney replied that the Washingtonians did mightily well last June and that they would be greatly missed if they were not at Poughkeepsie next summer.

Can This Be True?

Connie Mack thinks that his club can be improved on, and he picks his All American team from the results the players accomplished during the season.

There is hardly a better balanced infield than that of Mack's \$100,000 quartet of players. "There may be some better individually, but picking them as an outfit I do not see where McInnis, Collins, Barry and Baker can be beaten," said Connie.

Mack fails to give Ty Cobb a place in the outfield. Connie considers O'Dring the best left fielder in the American league and favors Speaker and Joe Jackson for the other two outfield positions.

Hayes Jennings of the Tigers is undecided about the shortstop position. The popular manager picks either Dennis Bush of the Tigers or Jack Barry of the Athletics. "Barry is a harder hitter, but Bush can cover more ground and make more sensational plays than the Athletics shortstop," said Jennings recently. "Dennis is also a better base runner than Barry and is a good lead off man."

FOOTBALL TRICKS—THE "BOWWOW" PLAY

THE hearts of Illinois university rooters jumped up into their throats recently when the Missouri university Tigers stepped out on the Illinois field and reeled off a touchdown on a curious trick play. The Missouri trick play is one in which the interference, followed by a man who plainly has the ball in his hand, starts out on a tackle brush. Just as the play is about to collapse a feet tackle or end emerges from the mass going in the opposite direction with the "egg" tucked under his wing. It's very pretty, and Missouri worked it for a touchdown.

It seems strange that the Illini should be caught by a piffling trick like this—one that Missouri university teams have been using for four years. The play used to be more effective when the forward pass was allowed. Then the right half, following his interference into a (presumptive) hole of tackle, calmly shoved the ball at the left tackle, who was set for a sprint around right end. Under the present rules, which forbid forward passes except when made from a point five yards behind the scrimmage line, the tackle must be a bit more lively and step around behind the halfback ere receiving the ball. It's very easy when you know how.

The objection is that a lively smashing end, following the play around, ought to be able to break it up every time. Now and then, however, the end forgets to follow around.

The "show me" institution is the original home of many interesting football tricks, among them the "bowwow" play, whose unsuccessful use caused the resignation of Coach W. J. Monilaw, now instructor in physical education at the Chicago university teachers' college high school.

Monilaw was football coach at Missouri university for three years. After much experimentation in many systems of football attack he announced, previous to the football game of 1908 with Kansas university, that he had discovered an unbeatable play. He called it the "bowwow" and declared that the Jayhawkers would never be able to stop it.

It was a beautiful play—on paper. On the field, however, Monilaw's aggression was unable to make it go. They tried it again and again, and each time they lost about twenty yards on the play. The "bowwow" as nearly as any one understood it, consisted of a fake end run, two backward passes and a long forward pass. The long forward pass was never made, for the Jayhawkers stopped the "bowwow" just after

the two backward passes had been completed.

The "bowwow" was blamed for the Tigers' defeat in their big grid game. Thereafter when Dr. Monilaw walked along the streets the small boys would bark after him.

"Bow-wow-wow-wow."

Monilaw resigned.

Indian Coffey to Fight Mexican Joe Rivers



JIMMY COFFEY.

JIMMY COFFEY is called the "only real American lightweight" boxer, and he has some claim to the title because he is a full blooded Indian.

Coffey is a fast, two handed fighter and is rapidly forging to the fore.

Coffey, a native of the western plains, is now in New York, where his manager is negotiating for a match with Joe Rivers, the Mexican star-

"Irish" Mahon Makes Fight Fans Take Notice

ANOTHER sensational featherweight has bobbed up in the course of the past month or so, and, like many other famous boxers, his rise has been sudden, or, in fact, one might say overnight. The boxer in question is none other than Billy "Irish" Mahon, who hails from Newark, N. J., and who has been trimming his opponents with remarkable regularity of late.

This boy, who was practically unknown a short time ago, is now the reigning sensation of New York and Philadelphia, where he has been defeating his opponents as fast as they could be secured to meet him. Mahon holds newspaper decisions over some of the best in the featherweight class, and his work will be watched closely from now on.

Mahon is under the management of Jimmy De Forest, one of the wisest managers and trainers in the boxing game, which probably accounts for his success to date, as Jimmy is a fox when it comes to making matches and selecting opponents.

Mahon's sensational showing of late has sent the hopes of his admirers and backers soaring, and they are now clamoring for a match with Champion Johnny Kilbane, but Manager De Forest, showing traits of the wise fox that he is, only smiles at such suggestions and says, "Wait until the youngster obtains the necessary experience."

PENN QUARTERBACK A REAL STAR

GOOD quarterbacks are scarce, the college elevens are finding out to their cost, but the University of Pennsylvania, in Marshall, has a field general of the best abilities. Marshall will probably be chosen for the all America's team this winter. He is a heady player and fast on his feet.

BARS BLACK AND TAN BOUTS

BOXING promoters of the state of Wisconsin have reached a working agreement whereby no bouts between whites and blacks will be staged. The managers of the different clubs of Milwaukee, after having given the subject considerable thought, have come to the conclusion that mixed contests do the game no good and for that reason have barred them.

NO MORE CASTOFFS

CLARK GRIFFITH has announced that never again will he take over the castoffs of another big league club. George Mullin was the last, he says.

Methods of Casting the Ball For a Forward Pass



Photos by American Press Association.

"SECRET PRACTICE" A FOOTBALL FAKE

"TAKE it from me," said an ex-quarterback a few days ago, "all this secret practice stuff is bunk. Year after year in various parts of the country I have been admitted to secret practice of university and college teams, but I have yet to see a coach advance a sufficient reason why the stuff he is teaching could not be diagrammed and published in the newspapers.

"The truth about secret practice is that it is merely a little device to impress the college fan with the extent of the coach's wisdom. A little mystery will go a long way to impress folks, you know. I could cite you a list of historical instances if I wanted to show off, but I won't."

"The college boys think the coach is putting a great line of inside football into the heads of his charges. As a matter of fact he is probably having them fall on the ball or practice signals that have already been thoroughly drilled in public.

"About one coach a year in the whole country invents a really new play or an interesting variation from an old one. The Minnesota shift is a case in point. Nevertheless, the Minnesota shift would have been just as valuable if the enemy knew all about it in advance—more valuable, perhaps, for it would keep the foe worried."

"The reason the Carlisle Indians are effective year after year is largely because teams are looking for tricks from the Indians. They are so intent on looking for the crafty stuff that they are caught flatfooted and the Indians sweep them off their feet.

"If a football play requires secrecy in order to be effective once it isn't worth much. As soon as it is pulled once or twice the cat is out of the bag anyway. The truth of the matter is that any play worthy of the name will work if it is correctly executed, whether the other side knows you have it or not."

"There's another aspect to the secret practice. The college students, whose money buys the uniforms for the team and whose enthusiasm encourages the athletes to their efforts, have a right to see if they are getting their money's worth. They have a right to know the team in practice as well as on Saturdays, when they deposit their shekels at the gate."

All of which strikes us as very close to the truth and bears out the proverb attributed to Bill Roper, Princeton's famous coach:

"It's not so much the kind of football you play as how you play it."

THE forward pass is the standby of many of the big college teams when they are "in a hole" and require a long gain of distance to meet the emergency.

Three methods of throwing the ball are shown in the accompanying illustration. In figure No. 1 the player is casting the ball "end over end," the fashion used in making long high throws. No. 2 is throwing the ball just as one would pitch a baseball. It goes straight through the air end first. No. 3 is executing a "spiral" throw. The ball revolves as it goes through the air.

The last two passes described are the easiest to be handled by the player supposed to catch it.