

Moleskin Heroes Pass Into Discard With Season's Close

(By W. S. FARNSWORTH.)

New York, Dec. 2.—With the closing of the 1911 football season, an unusually large number of the moleskin heroes will pass into the discard. The career of the football star is the briefest of any athlete—today a hero, tomorrow forgotten. With the ending of the Army-Navy and the Yale-Harvard games, followers of the pigskin said goodbye to some of the greatest players that ever followed the game.

At Cambridge, Captain Arthur Howe of Yale made his last appearance. Jim Scully and Charley Paul, the Blue's tackles, and Elmer McDewitt and Pete Francis, the Bulldog's guards, also played their last football games for their college. Over at Harvard Bob Fisher, the Crimson captain, led his team for the last time on Saturday, as did Bob Potter, the great quarterback. Huntington, center, Leslie, guard and Gardner, a back field man. Every one of these Crimson wearers made an excellent showing in their last game.

With the departure of these stars, one goes back to former Yale-Harvard contests. This year neither team had a little chance to score on straight rushing with the ball. Before the new game was adopted by the rules committee, large scores usually resulted. In 1907 the New Havenites sent Coy and Phillip ploughing through the lines for big gains and won the battle by a score of 12 to 0. But since the defense has become so perfect and the offense so weakened, neither Harvard or Yale have been able to make headway by steady line ploughing.

In 1908 an even more marked development in defense play was noted. Neither team was able to advance the ball to any extent. Coach Naughton's generalship in putting Kennard in at the very tail end of the game was a great move for the sterling field goal kicker dropped the ball over the bar a few seconds before the timer's horn brought the struggle to a close.

In 1909 Ted Coy, without doubt the greatest man that ever played football, was at the time was at the top of his development as a plunging back, could get within striking distance of the Crimson goal in 1909. Those who were fortunate enough to see that great contest will never forget how the great Yale offense was checked. Also to this day they probably remember how Ted Coy tried unsuccessfully three times to kick goals from the field in the first half before he finally scored. In the second half the Harvard offense struggled nobly to carry the ball over the line, but the New Haven team's defense never allowed them to get inside the twenty-five yard line. Just before the game ended, Yale changed her methods of attack and sent Coy to try another field goal. He missed the ball cleanly before the posts and Yale won, 8 to 0.

Last year and again this season the Harvard-Yale games were a further testimonial of the fact that the best offense possible cannot make head-

way against a fighting defense. A radical change in the rules must be made. Experts are pondering seriously as to whether a football game which is better served by defense than it is by attack is a good athletic sport. They can't bring themselves to believe that a premium should be placed on defense when, as a matter of fact, the burden of proof and the greater load of responsibility should fall on the attack. If a good defense is better than a good attack, they insist that the game does not balance well and that some weight is needed on the attack side, while a little should be taken away from the defense side.

The Tigers defeated Harvard through a blocked kick and a safety. Princeton beat Yale because of a bad pass and a fumble. Dartmouth was beaten by a kick, of which the greater part of the sportsmanlike Princeton students disliked to take advantage.

While these blunders of the other side were to the advantage of Princeton, and the Tigers played for all they could get out of the mistakes, up rose the old guard of football. And now they insist that the game was surely degenerated. When a team could do better by playing for the mistakes of its opponents than it could by exerting its own physical prowess to break down the defense of its opponents, something is wrong, is their view.

And there you are. It is the old story of the old football against the new. The men who played and earned honors on the gridiron when the old game was in vogue are willing to admit that the new game has some fine features about it, but they can't stand for the defense having the upper hand, and they say that is exactly what football makes possible at the present time. And they point to the success of the Princeton eleven in all three of the Tiger's big games as an example.

They are more than half right, too. The distance which must be gained on downs is not balanced by the ability to prevent the gain. If the eleven were asked to gain eight yards instead of ten the game would be vastly better than it is now. At least that is nearer the center between the attack and defense than ten yards. It would be as easy to rule off eight yards as it is to stick to ten yards. Make the gridiron 112 yards long instead of 110, make the distance to be gained eight yards in three downs, leave the other rules as they are and the attack will have as much chance as the defense.

If that doesn't seem the correct solution, change some other rule. In any event the eight-yard gain would surely make the game much more attractive and put an end to some of these contests where the team which is scored against by a play, which is not the result of the strong attack of the other eleven, will have a better opportunity to equalize matters than to be the victim of play after play in a defense which it is possible to maintain anywhere around the twenty-five yard line.



BRIGHT STARS OF THE "BIG THREE." The bright particular stars of the "big three" of 1911. Above is Walter Camp, Jr., Yale's dashing halfback. Below is Percy Wendell, Harvard's great ground-gainer. On the right Isame White, Princeton's end, who won both the Harvard and Yale games by his spectacular work. Camp and Wendell are almost sure to receive the captaincy of their teams for next season, while White is a certainty for Princeton's leader in 1912, succeeding "To!" Pendleton, who has been elected as Eddie Hart's successor in 1912.

Plagued With Ennui Johnson Renounces Frivolities Of Ring

(By W. W. NAUGHTON.)

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 2.—When Jack Johnson first talked of retiring, many thought it was merely one of the champion's whims, and that he would be back in the game with both feet the first time "proper inducements" were made to him.

Now corroborative testimony is forthcoming that Jack is through with the frivolities of the ring and that he is plagued with ennui to the extent that he does not care a continental who succeeds to the title.

He waives all right to a voice in the bestowal of the laurels and says he has no suggestions to make as to the best pugilist championship for years—that the man who assumes the prerogative without licking Johnson, will be regarded as a pretender, a jackal masquerading in a lion's skin.

There must be continuity in a thing of this kind. Each succeeding champion is merely a link in a chain of destruction. The newest man—or the latest model, one might say—licked a champion who licked another champion, and so, link by link, we trace our latest prize ring hero back to some dim and distant "champ," just as a race horse traces to the Beyerly Turk, or the Darley Arabian.

When a broken link appears, there is a blot on the escutcheon of the man whose reputational pedigree we are investigating and so it will be if Johnson escapes from the game unlicked and some one grabs his title.

This line of argument is easily proved sound. John L. Sullivan defeated Paddy Ryan, who defeated Joe Lewis; Jim Corbett defeated Sullivan; Bob Fitzsimmons defeated Jim Corbett; Jim Jeffries defeated Bob Fitzsimmons and Jack Johnson didn't do a thing to Jeffries.

Just think of the mental suffering of the sporting editors of the future while trying to explain to Old Subscriber and Constant Reader that the old line of champions ended with Johnson and that the new breed is only a kind of Manchu dynasty.

Something must be done to stall off the confusion that threatens the fastidious historians of the coming years. We must drag Johnson back at any price—and this "goes both ways," as the slingers say—and have him trounced to the queen's taste.

It should be done to keep the record straight and come to think of it, 'twill be merely that some call "poetic retribution."

The Jeffries that Johnson licked was merely the husk of the Jeffries that used to be, and Johnson had as much right to barken to the "come-back" cry as Jeffries had, especially if the prize is right.

There's another angle to the question which is bound to engender bitterness of spirit, I refer to the racial angle. If Johnson is allowed to rest in peace there will come a time—and then a succeeding time—in which the men with the dark pigment beneath the cuticle will say:

"The first negro that was given a chance became the champion of the world. They couldn't defeat him and so as not to block the wheels of progress, he stepped aside and allowed them to arrange a fresh deal. The chain of destruction which began with Figg and Mendoza ended with Jack Johnson."

Joe Jeannette, through his manager, Dan McKettrick, is the first to lay claim to the crown left on the bureau of Jack Johnson. McKettrick says that his man has shown himself superior to Sam Langford on various occasions and that it wasn't so much Australian gold as a desire to evade Jeannette that sent Langford scurrying to the land of the Kangaroo.

This is the first shot in the new campaign and Jeannette probably has as much right to fire it as any other man.

But how are things to be brought to a focus? With Johnson on the retiring list, astute Hugh McIntosh is sure to bill the impending Cam, Langford—Sam McVea fight as a world's championship struggle, and who is to gain say him?

Maybe the best thing for Jeannette to do is begin weeding out at this end. Let him hook up with Jim Flynn, who seems to be regarded as the best of the white heavies, and let the winner of that affair journey to Australia or voax the winner of the McVea-Langford bout back to this city. Then he will begin to get a line on the situation.

Tom O'Rourke, or some one back in New York has expressed the opinion that a white man would be champion of the world again before long. It is not easy to see how the conclusion is arrived at. If there is a white man in the lists at present who is capable of defeating Jeannette, Langford and McVea, he is being kept under cover.

No, sir! So far as the pale-faces are concerned, there is little hope in the outlook right now. And the shadow of Johnson is liable to fall athwart the prospect any time during the next few years. Jeffries on the occasion of his first retirement, said he would hop back into the game if a foreigner ever won the championship from America and Jack Johnson will make up his mind to don his war paint again if the supremacy of the black race is threatened.

Meeting Postponed Until January

The meeting of the Mecklenburg Live Stock Association, which was scheduled for yesterday at the Selwyn hotel, was postponed until the 6th of January.

The program for the meeting has not yet been arranged.

HEMPHILL MANAGER OF ATLANTA CLUB

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 2.—Charley Hemphill of the New York American League baseball club, was this morning elected manager of the Atlanta club of the Southern League to succeed Otto Jordan.

Hemphill was released from the New York team by Owner Frank Farrell of the New York team who will use Atlanta as his "farm."

The new manager will work in the outfield here.

—Rev. Dr. R. C. Holland who was for years pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran church spent yesterday in the city. He will return to Charlotte Wednesday to spend a few days with friends here.

Review Of Football In North Carolina for 1911 Season

(By W. C. D., JR.)

The past season has been one of the, if not the most, surprising in many years and that the rules need considerable attention by the big chiefs, is a fact now disputed by few and upheld by many. The change in the rules to make the play seem more open seems to have been made for the spectators alone and that the teams were hardly taken into consideration. But now it seems that even the people have lost interest, for is there any interest in a game where kicking is practically the whole show? Is it very interesting to spectators to see one team practically run away with the other? Football as it is played today in America is nothing more than a kicking duel between two men on the respective teams to see which one can pull off more kicks, and the old time football, which won the hearts of the nation, is no more to be seen. That there are to be important and far-reaching changes in the rules this year is a fact almost settled. Just what these changes will be the public is waiting and anxious to know.

Football in the Old North States this year has been a disappointment to all for it would seem that Wake Forest was the only team to gain credit while the others barely succeeded in holding their own against their rivals. The results of the games were not what the people expected, nor what they had looked forward to. Carolina was overwhelmed by her old rival, Virginia, A. & M., with last year's hard fought game to their rivals in quarter, Davidson lost in the last quarter after a game and hard fight to the University of Alabama, 16-6; while Wake Forest was the only Tar Heel team to win and they defeated the training ship Franklin, from Norfolk, 26 to 0. The men who had kept up with these teams through the various newspapers felt content that A. & M. would beat V. P. I., it was an even bet with Davidson, while no one in the state even dreamed of the score at Richmond. Had anyone even suggested such a thing people would have thought him a fit subject for the asylum. During the whole season A. & M. has been weak. Carolina and Davidson have succeeded in holding their own against the Baptist eleven has caused everybody in the South to sit up and take notice.

But where does the trouble lie? Can it be with the coaches? Hardly. A. & M. has the same coach,

while all the others have coaches that any teams in the South would be proud to possess. Could it be with the teams? A. & M. has the same team, Davidson has missed Klutz and Graham, Carolina is as strong as last year, while Wake Forest is a hundred per cent stronger. Then if the former is not, while the coaches and the teams are practically the same, we must look to the rules committee to help us out and restore the interest of the public to the game.

Football at A. & M. The past season of the A. & M. College brought forth many surprises and broke the hopes of their many ardent supporters. The early part of the season brought forth such reports that the state expected them to clean up everything it went against by overwhelming scores. But those who had seen them play noticed a decided difference in the men. Practically every man on last year's team again reported and the team was materially strengthened by the appearance of "Piggy" Hargrove, "Big" Dunn, and Phillips, while Hartsell was the only man handicapped by injuries. Early in the season though every one that saw the games played every don't care listless and a seemingly don't care spirit in the whole team. They succeeded in holding their own against Bucknell and other visiting teams but their admirers were disappointed at the game they were putting up. The first big surprise of the season, came when V. M. I. beat them 6 to 5. This was about as big a surprise as any that has taken place this year. No one would believe the result and it was in doubt until the papers announced it as a fact. To what was the cause of this? Listless playing. The men failed to realize until the last quarter that they were up against a team.

Washington and Lee put up a stut fight against heavy odds and with a so-called second team on the gridiron played a 3-3 score with the Farmers, in the last half.

Another big surprise took place when Wake Forest held them to a 13-5 score. The Baptists were the first to score and cleverly outplayed the Farmers during all four quarters. Coach Greene and there was not the hint of a joy on the returning speck during the trip out. But ye gods, deliver us! V. P. I. 2, A. & M. 0! Is it so? Could any one believe it? Surely it's a mistake. But no, it's true. Continued on Page 15.

Big Teams Prepare To Elect Captains For The Nineteen - Twelve Season

(BY MONTY)

New York, Dec. 2.—One of the "big three"—Princeton—has already elected its captain for the ensuing season. The honored one is Talbot Taylor Pendleton, the dashing halfback, who in 1912 will be playing his third year on the eleven. Harvard and Yale have yet to choose their leaders, but in each case it is comparatively easy to predict the man.

Harvard is certain to select Percy Langdon Wendell, the "human bullet," who was nine-tenths of the Crimson strength both on attack and defense this year and last year as well. Like Pendleton, of Princeton, he will be a senior next fall and will be playing his third season as a varsity regular.

At Yale there will be something more like a contest, but Walter Camp, Jr., looms above his rival teammates, Bomelsier and Spalding. The custom at the large universities is that only seniors are eligible for the captaincy. Bomelsier, Camp and Spalding will all be fourth year men next season and the two unsuccessful candidates will not have a chance to come back for the nomination again. Bomelsier did great work at end in the Princeton game, but Camp's work through the entire season places him above Bomelsier. Spalding was hardly as valuable to the team as either of the others. And, if popularity cuts a very big figure in the election, it will aid the son of the greatest living gridiron authority.

Each of the big trio of eastern teams had a man who stood head and shoulders above the rest in prominence this year. Princeton had Samford B. White, otherwise "Sammy," Harvard had Wendell and Yale had Camp. The last named was the most versatile of the three. He was as great a defensive player as were the others, he was almost as good a ground-gainer as Wendell and he was in addition one of the star punters and drop-kickers of the season. The others were scarcely of college calibre when it came to kicking. Sam White is almost assured of the captaincy of Princeton's 1912 eleven because of his wonderful work in winning the Yale and Harvard games this year, whether he does well next year or not.

In event that Camp and Wendell are selected for next year's Yale and Harvard leaders, each of the teams will have its captains playing in a different position than the man who bore its standard this year. Eddie Hart, of Princeton, was a tackle, while his successor, Pendleton, is a halfback. Arthur Howe, of Yale, was quarterback, while Camp is a half back. Bob Fisher, of Harvard, was a guard, while Wendell is a halfback.

Captains of Other Teams. The complexion of the election for

rules committee has tried for years to find out. It has never changed the number of downs. We would like to see them take a fling at this last resort that is left, and our confident opinion is that the fifteen-yard-five-down regulation would prove the remedy for all football's ills.

Mabel Taliferro Sues For Divorce

Chicago, Dec. 2.—Mrs. Mabel Thompson, known to the stage world as Mabel Taliferro, today sued her husband, Frederick Thompson, the New York theatrical manager, for divorce. Mrs. Thompson charges her husband with "extreme and repeated cruelty." The Thompsons were married just five years ago, following a courtship of less than a month. Mrs. Thompson left her husband about two years ago. Later she retired from the stage and came to Chicago where she took up her residence. In her bill of particulars, Mrs. Thompson mentions four separate and distinct instances of cruelty on the part of her husband.

Funeral Services Mr. Charlton

The funeral services of Mr. John David Charlton, whose death was noted in yesterday's News, will be held this afternoon at 3:45 at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Walker on Park avenue, Dilworth. The services will be conducted by Rev. Francis Osborne, rector of the Church of the Holy Comforter.

The remains will be taken at 5 o'clock to Savannah for the interment.

Manager Jennings Injured.

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 2.—Hugh Jennings, manager of the Detroit American League Baseball Club, was seriously but not fatally injured in an automobile accident late last night near Gouldsboro, Pa., in the Pocono mountains. He was unconscious for several hours after the wreck.

Others in the wrecked automobile were Rev. Peter F. Lynett and Mr. and Mrs. David Holden, of Matamoras. They rest was seriously injured. The Holdens, who had but a few hours before been married by the clergyman, were slightly injured. While crossing the Lehigh river something went wrong with the automobile and it plunged three feet into the water.

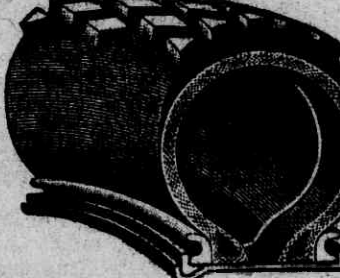
clubs at the other big universities seems as follows: Carlisle—Jim Thorpe, halfback will succeed Sampson Burd; Cornell—Quarterback Tuttle will succeed Fullback Billy Munk; Dartmouth—Halfback Hogsett will succeed Eddie Daley; Army—Tackle Dean will succeed Bob Hyatt; Pennsylvania—a close contest between four men to succeed Fullback Mercer; Navy—a close contest between five men to succeed Johnny Dalton.

Many suggestions have been made for changes in the rules for 1912, to equalize the advantages that the offense now possesses over the defense. The problem several years ago was to help the defense. Now it is reversed. All manner of recommendations have been made, some of them worthy of consideration, others little short of the grotesque. But the main ones are these—leave the distance to be gained at ten yards and give the offense four downs instead of three; decrease the distance to be gained to five yards as several years ago, allowing the three downs that have existed practically constantly ever since football rules were codified.

Here is our suggestion—Increase the distance to fifteen yards and give the attacking side five downs to make it. Increasing the number of downs will give the offensive team a chance to get its plays in working order. The effect would be in a way the same as that of signal practice. The assailing backs would have an opportunity to set working together in better order; there would be better teamwork.

Why the mogulus who tackle the rule-revision problem annually have never undertaken to change the number of downs is beyond comprehension. They have changed practically everything else, in their experimenting way. Why not change the number of downs and see whether that will not bring about the desired result they have failed to achieve annually ever since they began their task? Increasing both the distance and the number of downs makes it possible to get a more accurate estimate of the average amount of ground evenly-matched teams should be able to gain one another. Probably not one of the members of the rules committee could make a good guess at the average distance per down gained by evenly-matched strong teams. Neither can we. It appears ridiculous to ask a man to make that guess under the prevailing conditions of the ten-yard-three-down style of game. The guesses probably would range all the way from half a yard up to four yards.

Football, in the very nature of the game, is a great pastime as it stands. But that it could be made infinitely better by the proper slight changes is conceded. The question then is, what are the proper changes? The



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