

Woodrow Wilson Coached Football 25 Years Ago

At Davidson Played Both Football and Baseball but When Forced Give Up Active Participation Studied Game and Devised Winning Plays for His Team

By LAWRENCE PERRY
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New York, Feb. 7.—In all that is being written concerning Woodrow Wilson, the writer has seen no reference to the fact that he was closely associated with football as a coach some 25 years ago.

In the short time he was at Davidson College he played both baseball and football, football then being the old association game.

Matriculating in 1875 in the class of '79 at Princeton he found that football was ruled by a council composed of representatives of the three upper classes. Prevented by the illness that had caused him to leave Davidson from playing football at Princeton, his interest was none the less keen and his knowledge of the technique of play and his fertile ideas for improving the game soon won for him a place upon the football council, of which he became secretary.

He is credited with the playing of a constructive part in eliminating the old association game in favor of Rugby and in 1877 and 1878 Wilson and his colleagues at Princeton first played seven men on the rush line, an arrangement that has obtained ever since. Old Princeton footballers say that Wilson was a daily visitor to the field and the most active of all his associates in coaching. The professional coach was not to appear for some fifteen years.

In 1889 while he was professor of history at Wesleyan, Wilson was associated with F. D. Beatty and S. V. Coffin in developing a memorable eleven at Middletown. It was Wilson who devised for the Red and Black a series of "rotation plays" as he called them, in which various sequences of plays followed one another without signal. Meeting on Thanksgiving Day morning in 1899, Wesleyan performed the signal feat of defeating the University of Pennsylvania team and then prepared for Yale.

"Now fellows," cried a coach as the team took the field to meet the Blue, "let every man play hard to hold down the score."

"No! No!" shouted Wilson, confronting the players with upraised hand. "Let every man play hard to win." Then he launched into one of those fiery before-the-game orations that later came so widely into vogue. Wesleyan did not beat the great Yale eleven, but played one of the best games that Wesleyan ever played against the Elis.

In the fall of 1890 Wilson returned to Princeton, his alma mater, as incumbent in the chair of politics and jurisprudence. And every day while the Tiger team of that year was preparing for its great game against Yale, Wilson, Poe, Alex Moffatt, Duncan Edwards and Tracy Harris worked upon a new scheme of boxing the tackle and of breaking interferences. Wilson is described as following the team with a cane under his arm, an English fashion affected by football officials and coaches, turned trousers, a loose fitting pleated jacket and and red water proof shoes so popular in those days and a collegian's cap.

At the close of that 1890 season he was made chairman of the committee on outdoor sports which he headed until he became president of the university.

Merely Opened Way For Controversy

By LAWRENCE PERRY
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New York, Feb. 7.—It would seem that the United States Lawn Tennis Association in adopting the form of resolution it did relative to player-writers has opened the way to nothing definite — unless it be controversy, hard feelings and perhaps the entrance of lawyers into the sport.

For most obviously the U. S. L. T. A., at its annual meeting legislated to a degree rather than to a principle. No definite restriction against a tennis player writing of the sport in which he engages for money has apparently been enacted. Hence the principle has not been assailed.

"It is the player alone who

Major League Stages A Boston Tea Party

But Indications Are Will Be Pink Tea Party — Only That and Nothing More

By JOHN B. FOSTER
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New York, February 7.—The first major league pink tea that Boston ever had, prepared by President Johnson for the American League Tuesday, is in pursuance of the policy of the Junior major to spread itself here and there in the late winter.

The annual schedule meeting was held in Washington in February of 1922, at Philadelphia in 1923, at Boston in 1924, and it may come to New York in 1925, although Detroit or Cleveland would like to see the folks.

In 1922 the Yankees went over to Washington in full force, with the avowed purpose of annexing Eddie Collins. They didn't get him. It was the same story over again when they went to Philadelphia in 1923.

This year, prior to the Boston meeting, the Collins story bobbed up once more; it is not likely that Manager Chance will trade Collins unless he gets a mighty fine deal.

receives "substantial compensation, pecuniary gain or emoluments" who will be barred from writing for the press. Evidently the player who writes and receives compensation that is in-substantial, or not too substantial, will be let alone. In other words it would seem that every case falling under the general scope of the resolution is to be regarded and handled as an individual case.

Does it require an especially keen sighted person to discern trouble lurking ahead in respect to this point?

So far as William Tilden, the tennis champion, is concerned, it would appear that the resolution leaves his case open to all sorts of argument. "It is not intended," says the resolution. "To declare a person ineligible who has for years been engaged in the business of writing articles as his permanent and only business and whose income from such business is not substantially effected by his playing tennis."

Tilden probably can show that he has for years been engaged in writing articles as his permanent and only business but he may or may not be able to show that present income is not substantially affected by the fact that he is now writing as tennis champion. Does he derive more money from his articles now that he writes as champion than he received when he used to write as a player of merely sectional reputation? And if so is this due to improvement in journalistic proficiency or in the value of his articles, per se? Or is it due to the increased value of his name as a result of tennis prestige? The point may prove to be finer and more complex than it appears on the face.

And even if he wanted to, Chance couldn't trade Collins without Comiskey's approval.

If the Yankees want Collins — and probably they do, as any club would be glad to get a man who can bat .350 — they will have to give Chicago a second baseman as good and the only individual they have in this line is Ward, who is not for sale, trade or discussion.

All of the league business scheduled to come up at Boston is ratification of the schedule, which is made out in advance, with an understanding that it is non-changeable.

Washington may seize onto the occasion to announce a new manager. If worst comes to worst, Clark Griffith may introduce himself in that role. There are worse.

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