

RUGBY FOOTBALL AT VAN CORTLANDT

Canadian Teams Play Under the
Critical Eyes of Amer-
ican Players.

HAMILTON BEATS OTTAWA

Interesting Contest on Trial Viewed
by a Good-Sized Crowd with
Varied Opinions.

Just as the Monitor, derisively dubbed "a chessbox on a raft," was the archetype of the modern Delaware, so the brand of football played by the Ottawa and Toronto teams at Van Cortlandt Park yesterday afternoon, known as Canadian Rugby, was the prototype of the present American college game.

Can there be much doubt but that, if the civil war ironclad were to be manned by the scientific sailors of to-day, it would make a better showing and work greater havoc than it did over forty years ago? So, too, if the universities and schools of this country were to adopt Canadian Rugby as their own, they would, without a change in the existing rules, play it in such fashion as to make its devotees across the border believe that they were viewing an alien game.

It was the almost unanimous opinion of the many prominent American football players, past and present, who saw yesterday's contest that the Canadian game, with its tackling, heavy formations, mass plays, and close-knit offense and defense, would, in the hands of our colleges, make a field a charnel house and the present university game by comparison a mere mollycoddle sport.

While these ex-warriors of many fiercely fought gridiron battles were solid in their praise of the enterprise and generosity of The Herald in bringing these two crack Canadian teams together, so that our football enthusiasts might be able to compare the two games, they were equally certain that to return to the game from which the American college game was evolved would entail a bigger hospital list, and possibly more fatalities, every year than is now the case in five seasons with our brand of football.

Easy for Hamilton.

When Hamilton was finally evolved a winner over Ottawa by the score of 11 to 6, it was after an interesting struggle, but one which did not appeal very much to the 5,000 Americans present, because of their unfamiliarity with the rules of the game. A large number of Canadians, showing to what a great extent this city draws on the peoples of the world for its population, cheered the efforts of both surteens with equal fervor.

The three most salient features of the game as played by these Canadian sectional champions were the passing and kicking of the ball by the man running with it at the time he was in danger of being tackled, the close knitting of the forwards, with every man in the scrimmage line having his legs and arms interlocked in his neighbor's, and the methods of tackling which prevailed. Conspicuous, too, was the manner of putting the ball in play.

Perhaps the feature which served most to show the difference between the American and the Canadian games was the manner in which the tackler and the tackled acted. There was a total absence of that clean and decisive "getting a man," which our players use and to which our spectators are accustomed. Yesterday, when an end or a line man went down the field to intercept a runner or a forward essayed to stop a line plunge, the tackling was all around the waist—with few exceptions so few and noticeable as to call forth much applause when a really clean tackle, as we mean the word, was made—and the runner seldom failed to gain considerable distance when he should have been stopped short.

Apparently the Canadians know nothing of the straight arm, by which an American player puts a would-be tackler out of the way. Invariably, just before they were tackled, they would stop almost short and permit the tackle to be made in a fashion that, until one grew used to it, seemed puerile. The tacklers never threw themselves at a runner, preferring rather to remain almost upright and then attempt to stop him by an outstretched arm. Not once during the afternoon was a true diving tackle made, such a tackle as our players are taught to employ, and an American player would have made the defense of both Canadian teams look ridiculous by the use of speed just before a tackle was attempted or by a dive that would have brought the slow-running Canadians to a most abrupt and untimely halt.

Not up on Tackling.

In this connection it is interesting to know that some of the Ottawa men who played yesterday afternoon witnessed the Harvard-Cornell game of this year, and, immediately after returning home, wrote to Walter Camp, Yale's football director, who is well known throughout the Dominion, as to how American college players were trained in tackling. Upon being told of the tackling dummy and the long afternoons of instruction in the elements of football, they wrote Mr. Camp, asking him to purchase one of these machines for them. And during the next Canadian season the Ottawa team will be drilled with the American dummy, and by an American coach in this football fundamental.

Another phase of the Canadian game which impressed the spectators was the slow charge of the forwards. Neither side ever played on its toes as does an American eleven. The same neutral zone between the lines exists, but the forwards were apparently content to lock arms and legs, thereby preventing any breaking through until the ball had crossed the line, then to hold the defense off, whereupon both lines would walk leisurely over to where the runner had been downed. Such a thing as the forwards getting into every play was never once seen, and apparently the Canadians were well content to play the game in a far more desultory manner than could possibly characterize any American team sport in which there is actual physical contact. That is perhaps the explanation of their 35 and 40 year old players.

The peculiar formation of the offense just prior to and succeeding the instant when the ball was kicked backward by the centre to the quarter back would undoubtedly and unhesitatingly be seized upon by any American team that played this kind of football as a pretext and means of employing the flying wedge of two decades ago. When the Canadians hit the line they always used a five-man tandem, which ploughed its way by sheer weight through the opposing forwards. Like their American cousins, they usually hit the position which corresponds to tackle in this country for their tries at the line. The man with the ball headed the tandem, owing to the law forbidding interference ahead of the runner, which, in the Canadian game, is called "offside interference."

Passing, a Pretty Feature.

When these tandems were formed they moved slowly and ponderously, always without that jump and snap which characterizes assaults on or through the line on this side of the border. To stop them it was required merely to fall in front of the mass, whereupon it crumbled in top-heavy fashion, or merely to tackle the runner around the waist, whereupon he would stop standing up and the ref-

eree would order the ball downed again. The players at the flank positions never dreamed of joining in the play and pushing the runner. Yet were the Canadian game brought into this country for American college use, the first thing that would suggest itself to all the coaches would undoubtedly be the fact that no fewer than six or seven men are always available for a pushing tandem. Just what would be the physical effects of this style of play on the defending forwards is best left to the imagination.

Undoubtedly the prettiest part of the game as it is played in the Dominion is the manner in which a runner passes or kicks the ball in a forward direction just before or just after he has been tackled. Under the Canadian rules this is not only permissible, but is extensively encouraged, whereas in America a forward pass is legal only from a scrimmage formation, and at all other times a pass can be only in the direction of the goal defended by the eleven making the pass. Many of the American players present, including one member of the Rules Committee, said that he was heartily in favor of the Canadian rules in this respect, as it was not only vastly more open and practical, but considerably safer.

Under this style of play it might frequently be the worst thing in the world to dive at the runner, since one could never be certain but that he would heave the ball twenty or thirty yards, or even further, into his opponents' territory, after the tackle had been made. Under the Canadian rules the ball is not dead until there is no possibility of advancing it further, a radical divergence from the American method of calling the play dead as its progress in any direction is stopped.

Another innovation which the Canadians introduced—and it was so slick and easily performed that numerous notebooks were pulled out of American breasts—was the manner of passing for a drop-kick. Instead of the quarter back passing the ball to the kicker—under the Canadian rules only the third man touching the ball can put it in actual play, which of course forbids a pass for a kick directly from the centre to the player corresponding to the American full back—the quarter would make an extremely low, slow pass, so that the ball hit on one of its ends just a foot or so ahead of the kicker. As it bounced upward and at the exact instant that it left the ground he would kick the ball, thus completing a drop kick under even the American rules. The strategic value of such a play in the game played in this country is immediately apparent. The success with which the Canadians employed it warrants the belief that our players can also master it with a little practice.

More than anything else, a comparison between the two games must be one of National temperaments and ambitions. Playing a game merely for the sake of playing it does not appeal to many on this side of the water, and south of the Canadian border. Seemingly the Canadians are, like their British cousins, amply satisfied with the indulgence in sport, regardless of the end achieved. Such a state of affairs may be desirable in athletics, but it seems hardly possible that it can be inaugurated in this country at this late day.

With the same decisive efforts to master his opponent which characterizes the American in every walk of life or sport, were Canadian Rugby introduced in this country it would be played in identically the hard, aggressive fashion that marks all our other games. The result would undoubtedly be appalling. For if the present college football is dangerous and a menace to life and limb, the Canadian game, played in equally sturdy and reckless fashion with which our players now conduct their game, would probably result in numberless serious and fatal accidents. The possibilities of the Canadian game, if every opportunity is taken of the chances permitted by the rules, are endless.

Another great point of difference between the American and Canadian games was the lack of any coherent plan of attack. To make an apparent paradox one always expected the unexpected. The ball would be thrown around in free and easy abandon, with an evident trusting to luck as to its recovery. Funts and kicks of all descriptions were tried, with seemingly never a thought bestowed on the ends getting down the field under them or their regaining by a team mate. A line plunge would be followed by a side pass that had apparently no such object as gaining ground, but was used more for lack of something else to do than for any definite motive.

Every one of the former gridiron stars who was asked for his opinion on the Canadian game expressed himself in almost the same way. "If we played this game in our colleges it would be stopped by the police within one month as too great a menace to life. It's a good enough game if it is played slowly and phlegmatically, but it would never be safe to permit our college men to indulge in it with their keen and ever-present desires to win."

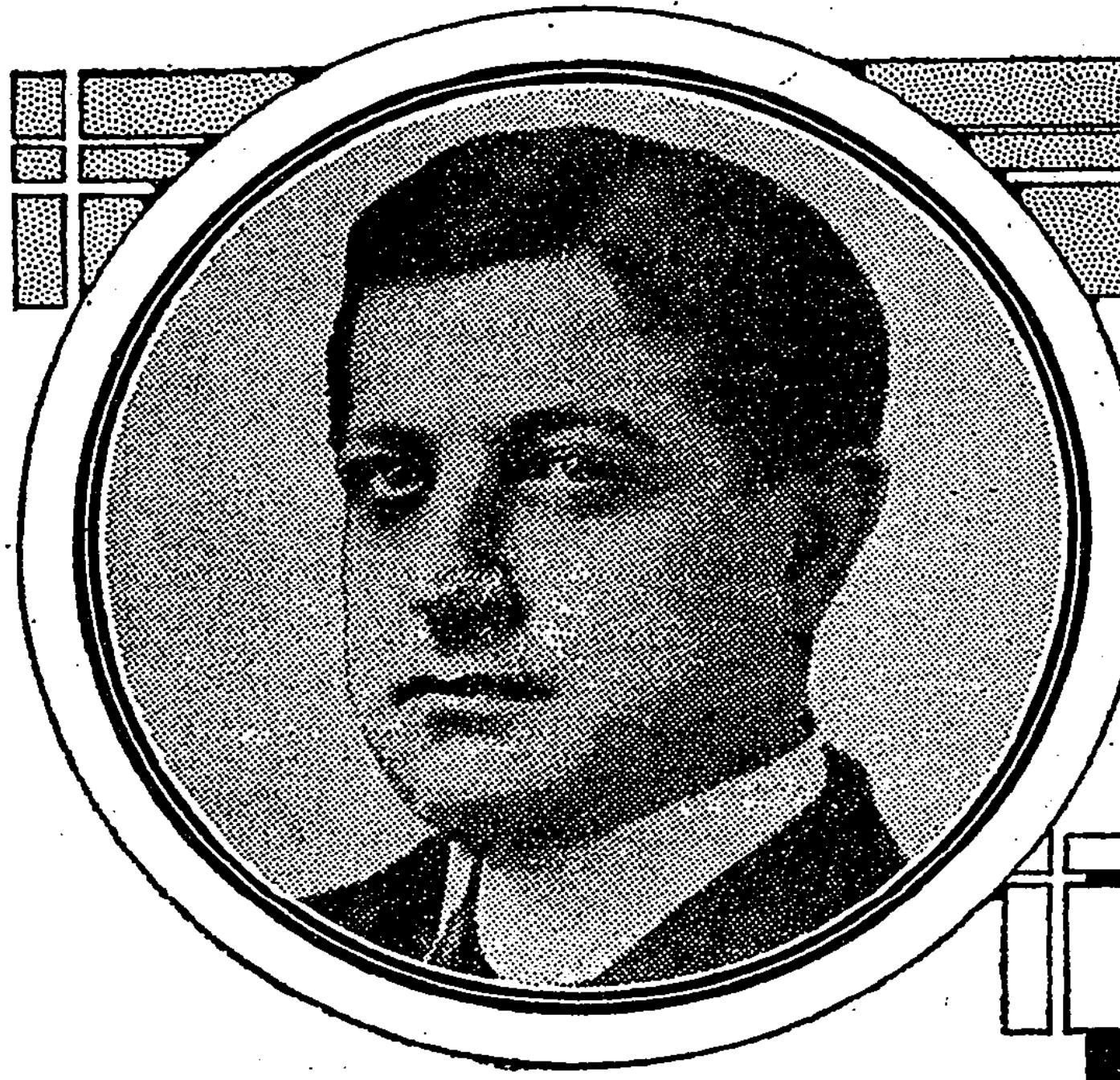
On the sidelines when the game started were the Hon. Linn Bruce, ex-Lieutenant Governor of New York; Col. C. A. Larned of the United States Military Academy; Lieut. H. M. Nelly, U. S. Army, head coach of the Army team; Walter Camp, Henry Wheaton, assistant coach at Yale; G. Foster Sanford, Burr Chamberlain, and Richard Sheldon, all well-known Yale players of the past; Percy Haughton, head coach, and W. F. Garcelon, graduate manager of athletics, at Harvard; A. A. Stagg of the University of Chicago and member of the Intercollegiate Rules Committee; W. S. Langford of Trinity, another committee member and a leading official; Commissioner William H. Edwards, one of the few men who have captained Yale-beating Princeton teams and a famous umpire; G. J. Geer, the old Princeton tackle; William Hollenback, the crack Pennsylvania full back and now head coach at Penn State; Lieut. Berrien of the Navy, and Capt. J. Wheeler of the New York University team.

The line-up:

Ottawa.	Position	Hamilton.
Johnson.....	Full back.....	Smith
Gerrard.....	Left half back.....	Burton
McCam.....	Right half back.....	Moore
Hilt.....	Quarter back.....	Awrey
Williams.....	Centre half back.....	Simpson
Stronach.....	Left outside wing.....	Lyon
Vouhan.....	Left middle wing.....	Thomson
Church.....	Left inside wing.....	Gray
Christie.....	Right outside wing.....	Potticary
McGeigh.....	Right middle wing.....	Trigle
Phillips.....	Right inside wing.....	Isbister
Kenned.....	Centre.....	Pfeiffer
Ferguson.....	Left scrum.....	Bramer
Sheeriff.....	Right scrum.....	Craig

Score, Hamilton 11, Ottawa 6. Time of quarters, 15 minutes. Referee, Mr. William McMaster, M. A. A. A. Umpire, Mr. Harry Griffith, Toronto University.

Principals in the Present Baseball Discussion.



John A. Heydler.



John M. Ward.