

From the Field of Sports

THE GREAT AMERICAN GAME OF FOOTBALL

STRATEGY RELATING TO ATTACK AND DEFENCE.

The Successful Coach Must Not Only Teach the Mechanical Part of the Game, but Must Equip the Team with a Plan of Strategy Based Upon the Strong Points of His Eleven and the Weakness of Opponents—Good and Bad Tactics.

By PAUL PLAY. Seventh in a series of articles on College Football. Previous articles in this series were printed September 4, 8, 11, 15, 16, and 17. One of the important features of football, and an element which figures prominently in the claims of the game as a great major sport, is generalship—the playing of the game to the best advantage of a team with respect to its own strength and its opponent's weaknesses.

tackle blocked the opposing guard, and the fullback and both guards assailed the opposing tackle. Another half took the ball just outside or inside tackle. One source of its strength lay in the fact that it violated the accepted principles of line attack, and that thus a defense had to be developed to check it. It worked well against Princeton. Haughton, of Harvard, was on the top of one of the Yale field-stands that game, armed with binoculars, and he never took them off that Yale team when it was on offense. The Harvard coach returned to Cambridge and devised a special defense by which the attacking tackle and guards were bowled over by the secondary defense before they could form their interference; thus Yale lost her trump card.

In 1907 Princeton, seeing that Yale was using a wide defensive formation, developed plays whereby the backs were wedged quickly through the Blue line. Foster Sanford got the team together between halves and coached them in a close-up defense, so that when the team returned to the field in the second half, Princeton found she had to face what amounted to a new team, with a new style of defence. Tufts had great success last season with a play in which the interference quickly enveloped a runner, the formation in shape being sort of a box. Two Rutgers players who saw the offense a week before the Rutgers-Tufts game returned to New Brunswick and reported to Foster Sanford that the Medford collegians had an unstoppable attack. They explained the details of the play to the coach, who, after two sleepless nights, devised a play by which the new interference was surrounded by a sort of box, which effectually throttled the play and enabled Rutgers to win. Thus is football the pitting always of brains against brains, as well as brawn against brawn.

The generalship of the Yale-Harvard game of 1914 illustrates very clearly the difference between good and bad strategy. The Yale quarterback played too often on one string, did not mix his plays enough, and employed one play too frequently in assaults on the Crimson line, whereas the Harvard quarters, Logan and Watson, had the Crimson equipment of plays grouped in their minds, and were never at loss to call for two or more different sorts of assault upon one position. On the four-yard line in the first quarter Logan saw Yale's left wing open, and sent Hardwick around it, a forward pass being hurled to him as he was about to place foot on the goal-line. The touchdown, of course, was easy. This was a strategic move, inasmuch as Harvard had been going through the line, and Yale apparently had not the slightest idea that the pass would be attempted on the second- or third-down. The ball was so thrown that no Yale man had a chance to get it, if only because the Ell end was not looking for a throw, and the worst that could have happened would have been a down. The Harvard quarter hardly took a gamble, inasmuch as the play was dictated by Yale's obvious unpreparedness for a forward pass. And another point which reveals the superiority of the Harvard generalship against Yale as against Princeton's generalship against the Ellis. Once in possession of the ball, the Crimson absolutely refused to hand it back to Yale by kicking on the first or second down; whereas the Tigers did it frequently. At the very outset Harvard showed that her intention was to put the Yale defense to the most rigid test, not waiting first to see what sort of an offence the Ellis had. As a result, memory of that game leaves one with the impression that Harvard had the ball, doing things with it, all afternoon, while the Blue had little chance to show what sort of an attack she really had.

SADDLERS IN TWO CLASSES. Docked and Undocked Types at the National Horse Show. Exhibitors of saddle horses are much interested just now in the proposed innovation at the National Horse Show in Madison Square Garden, November 4-12, by which two distinct types of riding horses will be recognized this year and judged in separate classes all through the exhibition. In one series of competitions the docked horses, classified according to their height, or their apparent ability to carry weight, or their suitability for women to ride. And in another series the long-tailed, or undocked, horses will be grouped in the same way.

Miscellaneous Sporting News. The Hermuda cricketers brought their tour of this country to a close yesterday by beating the Tri-City eleven by 181 runs. Deal beat the Deal Skeeters 7-3 to 2-6 goals in the second polo match for the Monmouth County cup yesterday at the Rumson Country Club. Hilding Froding, representing the Golfing Canoe Club of Sweden, will race against Leo Freids, holder of the International Canoe Cup, on the Hudson, off the Kickerbocker Canoe Club, for a cup offered through the Manhattan Canoe Club. Sixty per cent. of the canvases of manioc, grown in the highlands of Tonkin and Annam is shipped in the form of natural tubers, the balance being cut or dried.

DIFFICULTY IN RATING LAWN TENNIS PLAYERS

JOHNSTON AND WILLIAMS THE CHOICES FOR FIRST PLACE

California's Record in the All-Corner Tournament a Great Achievement Which Should Go Far Toward Giving Him the Honor—In-and-Out Play of Williams—McLoughlin May Be No Better than Third—Junior Championship Was by Goddard.

Opinions as to the good achieved by the ranking of the lawn tennis players each year are as various as the answers to the question: Do you believe in fairies? The truly optimistic follower of the game, one who feels the inspiration of anything that lifts before him a worthy goal for endeavor, stands ready to do, and willingly do, defend the rating of the foremost players of the season. There are others who fall to see that the ranking of the playing forces of the country does anything less than create a most fertile field for controversy. They are ready to prove that there never can be anything scientific about it, and that it leads frequently to much bitterness.

There is no doubt, however, that the rating of the leading hundred men of the country is firmly welded into the American game. That it is a source of great inspiration to many to get their names on that list, and it is really a finishing, for the select hundred really represent the picked fighting forces of the courts from many thousands of players, and that is one of the fundamental reasons why the place toward the end of the list is not to be lightly considered, for it is a small honor to get the place there when the many thousands throughout the country are taken into consideration. There are players who watch the fluctuations of their rating, and who always consider the effects of winning or losing.

Permanent Challenge Trophy for the Metropolitan Junior Lawn Tennis Championship, presented by Goddard Weld Saunders, won yesterday by C. S. Garland

A match on that basis, much more closely than they do their bank accounts. While the great tournaments of the year have only been over for a short time, the followers who take head of the rating of the men have already begun to discuss the placing of the famous wielders of the racket who will make up the top ten. There is every indication that at least two of the players, William M. Johnston and R. Norris Williams, 2d, will cause some controversy as to which should be rated at the top of the list. Then there is Maurice E. McLoughlin to be considered in awarding the chief places, although the opinion is fairly well defined that the famous California Comet must be content with a second or third place when Frederick C. Inman, Walter I. Pate, and Walter Merrill Hall—the trio of the ranking committee—make their findings for this season. There is also to be taken into account this season that in the awarding of the ratings matches and competitions in open tournaments will be given preference over competitions in strictly invitation tournaments where the entry was of limited character.

viciously the Californian did not play his game, did not even attempt to do so except in one set which he took at love; and so the opinion prevails that in the broadest sense the records of the international matches should not be considered.

Williams, who seems likely to hold his place on No. 2 on the list, the position which caused so much discussion a year ago, has had the sort of in-and-out season on the courts which is apt to be chronic with him, because of the peculiarities of his methods. Williams's victories over his old rival, McLoughlin, at Newport, and over Karl Behr, at Seabright, stand out most prominently in his record. Otherwise, it is of a rather drab color and contains a lot of unconvincing playing, such as the loss of a set to Walter Merrill Hall, the playing of a five-set match against Charles M. Hull, Jr., at Newport; the loss of a set to Craig Hiddle at the same place, while McLoughlin defeated him in the Pacific Coast tournament and for the Longwood bowl, and Longwood has stood as one of the great classics of the American courts, and next to the All-Corner.

There are students who would not be at all surprised to find McLoughlin in the place of No. 2 and Williams dropped down to No. 3, which place, however, is the generally accepted rating accorded to the Californian. There is no doubt as to the fact that the wonderful "Mac" was not on his game during the past season. Longwood was his one great victory, and while he came through triumphant to the final of the All-Corner, he had no close calls in his score such as Williams, and he has a record of having only lowered his colors to top-rating men, which, it is believed, may carry him into second place when all of the records are carefully studied and reviewed.

There is more difficulty in accounting for the fourth and fifth places than for the upper trio. It may be well right here to call attention to the fact that there will be three absentees from the top ten this year, whose places must be filled. These men are: R. Lindley Murray, No. 4 of last year; William J. Clothier, No. 5; and Ella F. Fottrell, the No. 10.

Leading Hitters of the National and American Baseball Leagues. Tyrus Cobb has recovered his batting eye, according to the latest averages. Although far from the 400 mark which he established some weeks ago, Cobb has added seven points to his mark of last week, and is still in the lead by 57 points, with an average of .377. Speaker, of Boston, being the runner-up with .329, and Jackson, Chicago, next with .319. Others in the American League following this trio who have played in at least half the games are: E. Collins, Chicago, .315; Crawford and Vaughn, Detroit, tied with .313; McInnis, Philadelphia, .311; Fournier, Chicago, .310; Strunk, Philadelphia, .301; Howard, St. Louis, and Kavanaugh, Detroit, tied with .295; Gainer, Boston, .295.

Larry Doyle, captain of the Giants, continues at the head of the National League batters. He is leading with 142 hits, for an average of .319. Others who have played in at least half the games are: Ludrus, Philadelphia, .316; Snyder, St. Louis, .314; Daubert, Brooklyn, .311; Griffith, Cincinnati, and Long, St. Louis, tied with .308; Hinchman, Pittsburgh, and Merkle, New York, tied with .295; Groh, Cincinnati, .295; Robertson, New York, .294; Collins, Pittsburgh, .291; Flahar, Chicago, and T. Clark, Cincinnati, tied with .290; Cravath, Philadelphia, .286.

The absence of these men from the competitions causes an amount of shifting that is sure to work some unexpected results when the list of the honored ten is compiled. The belief is general that Karl H. Behr and Theodor Roosevelt Pell will fill out the first five at the top of the ranking. Up to the tournament at Seabright Behr had not been defeated. At that he had the scalp of McLoughlin dangling in his belt when Williams took the match from him. Behr defeated Robert Le Roy in the all-corners, and he made a great fight against Johnston, who was on his way to the title. He won in splendid form in the tournament at the Country Club of Westchester, at Nassau, and successfully retained his Middle States title. Pell was rated No. 5 in 1913. He has performed even better this year, but the leading men are a trifle ahead of him. His defeat of Johnston at Southampton will count for much, and he has been working reversals through tournament after tournament. With the exception of St. Howard Vosbell in the Cedarhurst tournament, Pell has regularly lost to men rated above him. Watson M. Washburn was fortunate to catch him in the final at Southampton on a day unfitted for any sort of tennis, a day of winter's chill and wind the like of which has not been known since, and these conditions will help when Pell's position is compiled. Pell was not in the top ten last season, but he seems to have earned the place this time. George M. Church, who was No. 7 last year, Watson M. Washburn, No. 9 last season, and possibly Frederick R. Alexander, the No. 8 of last season, will be likely to lead the next places awarded. It is a question as to whether Alexander competed in sufficient tournaments, and he may go into the insufficient data division. Washburn is likely to get the place above Church because of his victory in the all-corners. The victory of Washburn in the Metropolitan championship, where he defeated Le Roy in the final, and his taking of the singles at Southampton, will count for much in his favor, although he followed the Southampton victory by succumbing to Pell in straight sets at 6-4, 6-4, 6-3, in the all-corners.

was the national-international honors; Wallace F. Johnson, and Robert Le Roy are all close contenders for the last few places that will complete the list of the first ten at the top of the ranking. The men have all shown form in which slight things have changed victory into defeat and otherwise. Already the committee has begun to get its data together so as to give the attention to the ratings that it deserves. It is not probable, however, that the list will be issued for at least two months.

C. S. Garland, of Pittsburgh, won the first leg on the Saunders Challenge Cup for the Junior Metropolitan championship, yesterday, at the West Side Tennis Club, beating L. M. Banks, of New York, in the final round by 6-2, 6-1, 6-2. The doubles finals were unfinished on account of the rain, the score standing as follows: H. W. Forster and G. P. Throckmorton against C. M. Garland and W. I. Pihl, 6-1, 2-3, unfinished.

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COBB AND DOYLE BEST BATTEERS

Table with columns for League, Player, W, L, Pct, Games. Includes data for American League, National League, International League, and Federal League.

TRI-STATE MATCH FOR THE LESLEY GOLF CUP

MAY BE PLAYED OVER BOTH OF THE COURSES AT MERION.

Anderson Lost to the Massachusetts Combination as He Is Now in the Metropolitan District—Fully 300 Starters in the Seniors' Tournament Next Week on the Apawamis Links—Great Expectations for a Brilliant and Successful Meeting.

In less than two weeks the annual tri-state matches for the famous Robert W. Lesley Cup will be staged over the links of the Merion Cricket Club, just outside of the city of Philadelphia, and because of the nearness of the event and the talk of changing conditions to a more convenient basis, the competition has attached to it more than passing interest.

There is another phase of the competition which is well worth discussing at this time. It has been touched on elsewhere before, but not in accurate fashion. That is the introduction of the fourth team, with a view to providing competition for the team which would otherwise be idle on the first day.

The advent of the fourth team will, therefore, perform two delightful functions: All in an undesirable gap and provide an opportunity for friends meeting friends and playing golf.

Up to the present time no official announcement has been made of the probable personnel of the teams. However, it would not be presumption to venture a few predictions. The probable teams will be as follows: Metropolitan—Jerome D. Travers, Oswald Kirkby, Maxwell R. Marston, Gardner W. White, John G. Anderson, Archie M. Reid, Philip V. G. Carier, Reginald M. Lewis, Roy D. Webb, E. Mortimer, Barnes, Henry J. Topping, and Pindley R. Douglas.

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all, and the system of two days for each of the two halves of the field will make it comfortable going.

Apawamis is on the tip-top of expectancy, and the club officials, as usual, have thrown the house wide open. One thing which makes this gathering of men and golfers so notable is the sociability of it. Here one meets a friend, often one of long standing who has journeyed all the way from some Southern, Eastern, or Western town to play at Merion, and for that privilege allow to mention nothing of playing golf with that friend being well worth the trip. Perhaps the introduction to an entire stranger will in time become a delightful friendship. If details could be mentioned, it would be found that this very situation has happened more than once in the eleven years the tournament has been run.

Of course the tournament never would have the inspiration if it were not for the continuous staging at Apawamis. In other words, Apawamis and the seniors have come to be so closely related that they might be classed as "twins." Apawamis, so to speak, has come to be hallowed ground with the seniors.

The spirit of the seniors is well illustrated in the chorus of an old song, composed by A. S. Hibbard: Come every golfer, take off your cap and doff her to the ancient and honorable name, For it's ever fair weather when golfers get together, Golf is the grand old game. Semi-finals and finals in the Piping Rock tournament will be played to-day as follows: First sixteen, G. W. White against W. P. Seelye and G. R. Pynes, 2d, against J. R. Hyde; consolation, J. P. Ward against A. R. Shiland and F. H. Hoyt against E. M. Barnes; second sixteen, F. C. Reynolds against W. F. Ladd and A. D. Weeks against J. G. Douglas; third sixteen, H. M. Harriman against W. I. Hicks and Malcolm Stevenson against Samuel Allison; fourth sixteen, E. C. Kerr against J. R. C. Tappan and F. C. Jennings against D. S. Fitzgerald; fifth sixteen, V. B. Hubbell against M. W. Littleton, Jr., and J. P. Benkart against R. D. Little, sixth sixteen, L. de B. Moore against H. H. Nelson and H. L. Barterman against Clinton Gilbert.

The Wrong Ticket. A Tommy, on leave from the front, had been given a free railroad pass to take him home, and he utilized part of his brief holiday in getting married. On the return journey, when the conductor asked to see his pass, he produced by accident his marriage lines. The conductor handed the paper back to him, "This is the ticket for a very long and tiresome journey, young man," he said gravely: "but not on this line."—Boston Transcript.

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