



And now draw near the days in which the end of the football season are upon us, when the results of weeks of hard work—and no one knows just how hard work has never been through it all—are to become known. Unlike baseball, whose champions for the particular season may have been known long before the playing season had neared its end (sometimes of course, uncertainty exists, as witnesses the National and American League races this year, when the outcome depended on the final game), football is a cumulative game where the teams meet earlier in the season are regarded as just so many trouts intended to show up the weakness or strength of the big teams so that when the clash of the leaders comes in the closing weeks of November every possible advantage will have been taken to present as strong a team as possible. Sometimes in the early season's games with theoretically weaker teams the decided for turns the tables and defeats the big team. This is humiliating and to be avoided is possible, but even the smart of this unexpected defeat is forgotten if only the time honored opponent in the same class as the vanquished eleven can be beaten in the one big game of the year. For Princeton the Yale game is the objective point; Princeton would rather beat Yale than win every other game on her schedule. Yale has a twofold ambition each season to beat Princeton and then to top the meal in which the Tiger is consumed with a cannibalistic desert in which John Harvard is the principal ingredient. "Pennsylvania lives to beat Cornell,

West Point to trail Annapolis' colors in the dust, Michigan wants the blood of Chicago or Wisconsin (it largely depending on the team which has made the best showing and with whom the championship title of the Middle West may rest), Cornell Stanford wishes only to beat California on the Pacific Coast. So everywhere the goal toward which all big college eleven set their face is victory in the one final big game of the season with foe of year after year. So even with the smaller teams in any section of the country, they like to humble their big, haughty rivals early in the year and are elated if the unexpected is accomplished, but they want most of all to win their championship game from colleges in their own particular class.

Who will be the victors this year? Farshrewder and better informed prophets than I would hesitate at this date to tell. Teams playing poor football now may make a wonderful brace (in horse racing it would be called a reversal of form) and may play a game that six weeks previous would have been deemed out of their province. Sometimes it needs the great final test to bring out all there is in a team. Princeton is a good example of this idea. They always have a way at the New Jersey village of coming up to the mark in the game with Yale and playing for all or more than was believed to be in them. They never say die until the last whistle has blown; consequently they are opponents always to be feared. College coaches are notoriously pessimistic and this further clouds the atmosphere. They

never say a good word about the men they are instructing and invariably have pessimistic reports to make about the lists of injuries received and the number of cripples upon whom so much dependence had been placed. Yet on the day of the big game these men are invariably found in the lineup playing the game of their lives with no outward evidences of ever having been on the sick list or in any way incapacitated. It seems to be all part of the game.

The game is a hard one and not for mollycoddles; there is no doubt on that score. It is a man's game and is one of the best training schools for a boy that I know of. It teaches him self-reliance, quickness of decision, develops him mentally and physically. There is no more wonderful feeling in the world than that of a player after practice or a game, particularly if he has done good work when he has returned to the college gymnasium, had his shower bath and been rubbed down with alcohol by one of the fellows and then taken his seat at the training table with an appetite to do justice to the good, wholesome food in front of him. Land, sea, or money, might well envy.

It is living in the finest sense of the word. One wonderful thing about the system is that a man's social or financial

position has nothing to do with it. The poor boy is as apt to succeed as his rich classmate, and more so, for the college football captains of many of the big university teams of the past decade number poor boys than any other kind. Provision is made for him at the training table. This, being of unusually good food, albeit it is plain and lacking in rich and pastry foods, costs more than an ordinary college boarding house would charge. Consequently the poor player is received and pays only what he did before he joined the team; the difference, it may be five or six dollars a week, is paid by the most amateurish (as regards purity) of sports. Generally the training season doesn't begin until the middle or latter part of September and then only on the college field. Another attempt to make the game less of a public affair and more collegiate in character removed all big games to the gridirons of one or the other of the competing teams instead of holding them in a big city like New York.

Many critics exist and will continue to exist of the game. A few years ago cogfiance was taken of the protests of the captious ones and the rules changed to render the game less rough. To bring about this result it was decided to open up the game and minimize the so-called mass plays, putting a premium on individual play. One innovation was to make the distance to be gained in the four downs

ten yards instead of five, as in the new game kicking would have to be resorted to more often and end runs tried where formerly the whole team would be used in a mass shove or push play to get the required distance. As an old player under the old order of things I at first resented the changes as did thousands of others, but now I must confess I am a convert to the new order of things.

The new game is better in most every way, and when it has had its minor defects rubbed off—a work of a few seasons—it will be an excellent kind of football. Early in the season the big college teams did not display much of this new kind of football. The possibility exists that the big teams did not care to display their "hand" early when their play could be studied by those opponents for whom they are always planning and so they have kept their open plays under cover, being content to use the old style plays just as long as they were facing minor teams and good and moreover makes too professional a thing out of what should be the most amateurish (as regards purity) of sports. Generally the training season doesn't begin until the middle or latter part of September and then only on the college field. Another attempt to make the game less of a public affair and more collegiate in character removed all big games to the gridirons of one or the other of the competing teams instead of holding them in a big city like New York.

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to beat the Army at Philadelphia in their great contest, but as with Yale and Princeton "you never can tell," for West Point is certain to be there ready to make the Middies play the game of their career to win out. In the Middle West, Michigan, heretofore the greatest scoring machine in that part of the country, if not anywhere has been having a decidedly hard time, not only being scored upon, but being held down to the closest sort of tie and small-score games. It looks as though at last the eleven made famous by "Hurry-Up" Yost had reached the year of its one or even several Waterloos.

Leaving the gridiron of the United States, where the game of football has reached a standard higher than anywhere else in the world, it may be interesting to travel theoretically to other lands where the game holds forth. It is played in Hawaii and played most successfully. Most interest, however, attaches itself to the game in China. In the land of the Celestial it is played by the schools and colleges. It has not reached the stage of perfection it has here, but a very creditable game is offered for the delight and edification of the usually undemonstrative Chinese. Much that has been learned has been taught by J. C. McCracken, at one time one of the most famous players of the University of Pennsylvania. He went out there after graduation and became attached to the Canton Christian College in his capacity as a medico. Incidentally he saw to it that the attendants at the college were taught the game of football. Now every year the game holds forth, and championship contests are held with another Christian college with a semblance of the excitement and skill characteristic of two big American universities. One difficulty has been in teaching the players that it is neither fair nor the part of a gentleman to tackle an opponent running with the ball or forming part of the interference by grabbing hold of his queue. Once this handicap is overcome, the Chinese become very good players, being swift runners, fair tacklers and possessed of a certain courage and grit absolutely essential to the game. In closing it might be cited that many years ago in Scotland it was a misdemeanor to play the game of football, and it was forbidden by law just as golf playing was, the reason for such drastic abolition of two most excellent sports being that both the attention and time of the worthy Scots away from archery and long-bow shooting, proficiency at which was necessary for the better protection of Scotland.

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### CALENDAR for DECEMBER, 1908

MOON'S PHASES.

Full Moon	d 7 h 5 m	44 p.m.
Last Quarter	d 15 h 5 m	13 p.m.
New Moon	d 23 h 7 m	5 p.m.
First Quarter	d 30 h 1 m	40 a.m.

  

Day of Week	Sun Rises	Sun Sets	Moon High Water	Moon Low Water
1 Tu	7:34	4:42	8:53	5:38
2 W	7:35	4:41	1:10	5:14
3 Th	7:36	4:41	2:28	6:38
4 Fr	7:37	4:41	3:37	7:49
5 Sa	7:38	4:41	4:49	8:51
6 Su	7:39	4:41	6:03	9:51
7 Mo	7:40	4:40	7:19	10:46
8 Tu	7:41	4:40	8:30	11:39
9 W	7:42	4:40	9:39	12:31
10 Th	7:43	4:40	10:45	1:16
11 Fr	7:44	4:40	11:50	2:00
12 Sa	7:45	4:40	12:53	2:42
13 Su	7:46	4:40	1:10	3:21
14 Mo	7:46	4:39	1:18	3:56
15 Tu	7:47	4:39	2:25	4:37
16 W	7:48	4:40	3:30	5:15
17 Th	7:49	4:40	4:35	5:02
18 Fr	7:49	4:41	5:39	5:47
19 Sa	7:49	4:41	6:42	6:31
20 Su	7:50	4:42	7:45	7:13
21 Mo	7:51	4:42	8:48	7:54
22 Tu	7:51	4:43	9:50	8:34
23 W	7:52	4:43	10:51	9:13
24 Th	7:52	4:44	11:51	9:51
25 Fr	7:52	4:45	12:51	10:28
26 Sa	7:53	4:45	1:51	11:04
27 Su	7:53	4:46	2:51	11:39
28 Mo	7:53	4:47	3:51	12:14
29 Tu	7:54	4:47	4:51	12:49
30 W	7:54	4:48	5:51	1:24
31 Th	7:55	4:49	6:51	1:59

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