

Enormous Crowds Flock to Scenes of Gridiron Encounters Each Saturday

SPORT IS GAINING IN POPULARITY BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS THIS YEAR

Fields in All Sections of Country Are Packed by Spectators Who, in the Main, Know Very Little

About the Game.

By WESTBROOK PEGLER
United News Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK, Oct. 24.—When a world series with Babe Ruth in the lineup draws a daily attendance of something less than 40,000 Ban Johnson, John Heydler and Judge Landis all join hands and roll around the mulberry bush, shrilling joyous bromides to the effect that baseball is the national game. They get a lot of money for knowing what they know, so they must be right.

But whose game is football, which will take 80,000 people to the little town of New Haven, Conn., for the Yale-Army game next Saturday, which can fill the big new stadium at Franklin field, and which enables Ohio State to build a football stadium that could swallow any two ball parks in the country and, probably, to fill it now and again with thousands of people drawn from a radius as wide as the State itself?

Nearly every one who goes to the ball parks regularly in the summer time, and a majority of the world series fans, are grand stand experts school by experience to know the delicate plays and the innocent skull work which goes on before them. But among these enormous football crowds which are jamming the stands in various parts of the country, there seems to be a high percentage of people who are only just beginning to learn what football is all about. In some cities the newspapers are publishing expert stuff informing the readers regarding the very rudiments of the game. This is recognition of the fact that football is just beginning to get to the greater crowd—the people who go out to enjoy the clean, fighting spirit of amateur sport, the spectacle of a struggle and relief from the surly rough neckism which big league baseball players have exhibited by "throwing down" unpopular managers and by elaborate sulking on the field.

Open Game Attracts

From the comments of professional men—coaches and writing experts—it appears that the modern "open" game, which reveals the management of the play as the ball goes into action behind the line, has done much to enhance the drawing power of football. Probably the business efficiency of the baseball magnates and their surly refusal to take any interest in various scandals until they were forced to do so, also has contributed to football's popularity. Anyway, the game now vastly outdraws baseball in the crowded sections of the country as well as in the minor league territory. And a large proportion of the spectators are non-collegiate gentry who think a curriculum must be one of those bulgy black nightshirts which professors wear when giving away LL D.'s. Likewise, in the East at least, the newspapers this fall are going to favor ball even more vehemently than they went to baseball during the warmest part of the pennant proceedings.

Annapolis and West Point contribute the best "tone" to the sport, drawing the service secretaries to some of their games and sometimes having the president as a fixedly impartial spectator. The President is invited to the Navy's game with Penn at Franklin next Saturday but even if he doesn't go, the huge park will be nearly filled.

The difference in the popularity of baseball and football is the sporting difference between two conspicuous incidents. You will remember that the Giants once lost a pennant because Fred Merkle technically failed to touch second. The ruling had the musty flavor of a Supreme Court decision, and had nothing whatever to do with sport. You may remember also that a penalty was imposed on Yale for offside play in one of the agonizing, uncertain moments of Yale's defeat by Harvard last year. Some of the Yale players flew at the official, screaming. They didn't believe it.

"Who was it?" they cried.

"That fellow there," said the umpire.

"I know it," said that fellow there. "I'm not disputing you, am I?"

That fellow there was Capt. Mack Aldrich, too game and too clean a sportsman to act any part of a lie, even to beat Harvard.

GIBBONS KIDS JACK

Offers to Fight the World's "Greatest" Scrapper.

By United Press
NEW YORK, Oct. 24.—Tommy Gibbons, St. Paul light-heavyweight, is now ready to help Jack Dempsey, the heavyweight king, out of the idle class.

Eddie Kane, manager of the St. Paul boxer, announced in a letter that Gibbons wants to meet the champion in a bout for the title this winter.

SHORTRIDGE AT WORK

Practice For Richmond H. S. Game Friday at Irwin Field.

Coch Gorton has his Shortridge team working hard for the Richmond fracs next Friday afternoon at Irwin field. Although the Blue and White won from Brazil Gorton is far satisfied and is smoothing out the rough edges this week. The squad is in fair shape. There were no serious injuries in the game last week. The locals are the favorites in the coming contest.

BRITTON RISKS TITLE

By United News
NEW YORK, Oct. 24.—The next championship fight will be Jack Britton's meeting with Mickey Walker, a young Jerseyman who gave Jack a merry thumping in a no-decision fight a year ago. They meet Nov. 1 in Madison Square Garden and this time Britton's title will be at stake with a decision to be given by the judges.

Mrs. Comiskey Dies

By Times Special
CHICAGO, Oct. 24.—Mrs. Nan Comiskey, wife of Charles Comiskey, owner of the White Sox baseball team, died Monday. She married Comiskey in 1882 when he was a member of the Dubuque (Iowa) baseball team.

CASTNER ONE OF MOST VERSATILE COLLEGE STARS

Southpaw Athlete Big Threat of Irish Eleven—Baseball and Hockey Star.

Castner is the latest and, in some respects, the most unusual of the great half backs that have played at Notre Dame. He is a junior.

He was picked by several critics for all-American half back, although only divided a half back position throughout the later half of the year.

He drop-kicked from the forty-three and forty-seven-yard line against Rutgers in two games.

He completed four of the six drop-kicks he attempted during the year.

His punts averaged fifty-five yards.

He coached the informal Notre Dame hockey team which won a clear title to the 1921 mid-west college hockey championship and won recognition as the greatest college hockey man in the mid-west.

He pitched a no-hit, no-run victory over Purdue and shut out Michigan, 5 to 0, established a record as one of the best hitters on the squad, and

had been treating them rough in his battles here and fans are anxious to see what Jimmy can do.

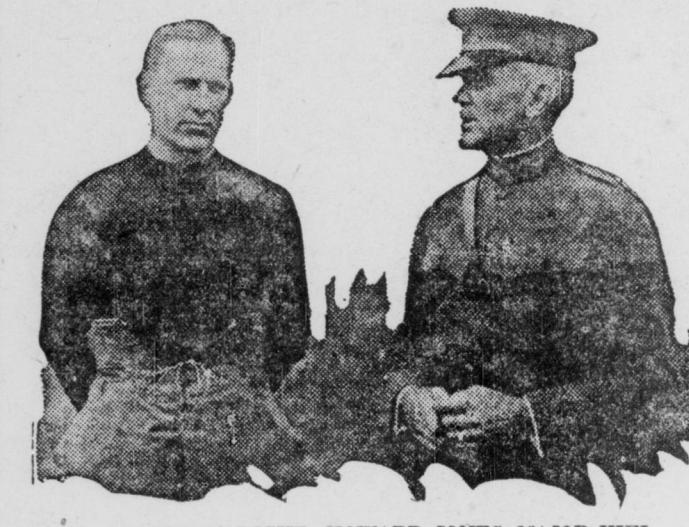
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IOWA GRID COACHES



LEFT TO RIGHT—HOWARD JONES, MAJOR HIEL

When Iowa played Yale the Jones family was a bit divided in its sentiments.

Yale, you know, is coached by Tad Jones; Iowa by Brother Howard.

Mother Jones hoped the game would end in a tie.

Dad Jones said if anybody must win

he hoped it would be Howard, as the victory meant more to him than Tad.

Well, Howard won, as Dad Jones hoped, and the first one to congratulate him was brother Tad.

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It's up to Jimmy Dalton tonight in the Washington A. C. boxing show at Tomlinson Hall to solve the riddle of Alex Novecky, the Cincinnati pole.

The fighter from the Buckeye State has been treating them rough in his battles here and fans are anxious to see what Jimmy can do.

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