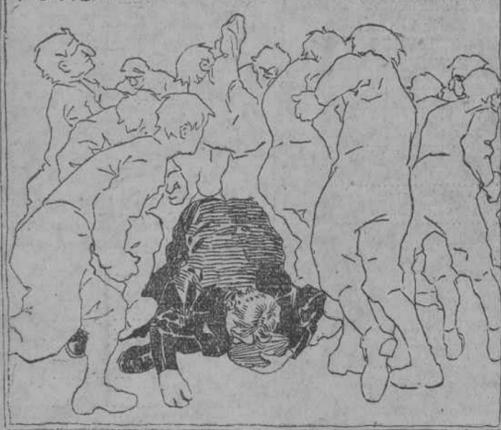


# LEATH HALTS DANGEROUS FOOTBALL PLAYS.

W.J. KEATING. CRUSHED IN A SCRIMMAGE



## FOUR FOOTBALL FATALITIES



ANDREW HASCHE SPINE DISLOCATED

IN 1897

RICHARD VON GAMMON TACKLED AND THROWN

BENJAMIN RICH... KILLED WHILE TACKLING... TYRONE PA.



### Experts Aff Decry Them and Call for an Open Game.

THE four deaths this season on the football field have been due almost entirely to the mass plays now so prevalent. In them half a dozen players direct all their energies against one of their oppo-

one of the backs of the North Hempstead eleven which played the Swissvale team at Swissvale, Pa., last Saturday. Seizing the ball, Keating started down the field on a sprint. He was tackled by two Swissvale players and brought to the ground. After he fell he started to crawl forward and the balance of the opposing team jumped in to stop his progress. In the scrimmage Keating was crushed. He was taken to his home and a physician called. It was announced that the young man was injured internally. Sunday Keating's parents were told he was likely to die, but he lingered until Tuesday night. To-day the Coroner

opening for one of their half backs to carry the ball through the line, the direction and impetus of the mass play was against the left tackle. Hasche was playing on the Astoria team. Hoffer, of the Yorkvilles, advanced the ball twenty yards on a fierce rush. In the scrimmage that ensued when Hasche fell upon his face with the ball under him. His back formed an arch. Upon this frail human bridge the players of both teams were piled up. They struggled there for a moment, a tangle of squirming legs and arms and agonized faces, and then disintegrated. But young Hasche could not

### More Brutal Than Fighting, Says Professor Atkinson.

It's Unmanly, Says Prof. Atkinson, of London.

New York, Nov. 10. Football proper is one of the finest games we have for teaching manliness, but this mass play system is brutal and degrading. I have played it for thirty years and last week I saw it at New Haven, where I was asked to examine the injured Yale players. In boxing one does not strike one's opponent when he is down; here in scrimmages a dozen men pile upon their prostrate opponent. I think it a great pity that football should be made so dangerous by permitting such plays. It should be rescued from such a condition, and placed in the hands of more humane directors, as was done by establishing the Rugby Union in England when football became too rough over there twelve years ago. The practice games I saw at New Haven resembled a bear fight, without science or manliness. Why this is called football is a mystery. The men actually seemed to try to injure each other, and this in the name of fair play and manly sport, by the college-bred sons of gentlemen. I was surprised and disappointed. PROF. J. ATKINSON.

University of Georgia and the University of Virginia, at Atlanta, on October 30, Von Gammon, who was playing the position of full back, was merely tackled and thrown to the ground. It was in the "second half" of the game, after the usual ten minute intermission. Von Gammon received the signal to take the ball from the quarter back as the centre rush "snapped it back" and try to plunge through the opposing rush line. He seized the spheroid as it was tossed backward and dashed forward. Quickly the Virginia "forwards" were upon him and he was tackled violently. The scrimmage was one of the most des-

moved to the Grady Hospital, where he died the next morning. Benjamin Rich, died at Tyrone, Pa., on October 19 from internal hemorrhages, superinduced by over-exertion and a heavy fall while making a tackle, striking his head on a stone or else the hard-rolled earth of the gridiron. Rich's death was somewhat different from the other fatalities of the football field this season. He was not hurt by several players falling upon him and crushing him in a scrimmage, but was hurled over backward in trying to stop the onrush of an opponent who had the ball. Rich had been taught the football maxim,

### Legislators Are Proceeding Against the Sport.

was born backward, both falling hard. Rich tried to resume play, but it was soon evident that he had sustained internal injuries, as well as a stunning blow on the head.

### Representative Cole Calls It Worse Than Fighting.

Editor New York Journal: Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 10. I introduced the anti-football bill into the Georgia Legislature as a measure which I considered necessary for the protection of the young men who would not protect themselves from the results of so brutal a game. The death of Von Gammon did not increase my strong objection to the game. The bill which passed the House was introduced last November, nearly a year before Gammon was killed. I went to see the Thanksgiving game here last year and was so disgusted that I came back and introduced the bill. Before that game was half finished I was so thoroughly disgusted with its brutality that I determined that such contests should be stopped. I had read of the game and of the many serious accidents attendant upon so rough an amusement, but I had no idea it was so very brutal and dangerous until I saw that game. The game of football is just eleven times as brutal as prize fighting, because there are twenty-two engaged in the game. Why a prize fight is very gentle and tame when compared to a football game. When a prize fighter is knocked down he is picked up and attended by tender hands, but when a football player is knocked down every other player jumps on him and hurts him. I am not opposed to legitimate and sensible athletics, but I am bitterly opposed to a game that is so hazardous to the men who engage in it. I introduced the bill more for the mothers and families of the boys who are so unwise as to enter a game of football than for any one else. I think the game should be stopped all over the country. I don't think there is any science or skill in the game. As I see it, the game is only a test of brutal strength. W. P. COLE, Representative Carroll County, Georgia.

### Alderman Plotke to Produce a Football Victim.

Editor New York Journal: Chicago, Nov. 9. I am opposed to football as now played, because it is brutal, inhuman and demoralizing. I have canvassed the matter with my associates in the City Council, and am sure of the passing of the ordinance which I introduced. What action the Mayor will take is uncertain. I do not seek to prohibit the game, but merely to regulate it so it will be impossible to kill or maim those who take part in the sport. In support of my ordinance, I will put to the Council next Monday evening a complete list of the fatalities and serious accidents growing out of football games this season. Besides this, I will introduce as a terrible example, a young man who has been maimed for life in the game. I have made a personal study, and must say that never, in any other line of sport, not excepting pugilism, have I seen such inhuman brutality, and I deem it my duty to do what I can to stop it. There is another bad feature to the sport which is seldom thought of, but which should appeal to every parent. The excitement is so intense that it affects morals and induces the use of profane language in immoderate degree. Small boys, and even large boys play the game in open lots, and their presence is contaminating to children in the neighborhood. Then there is grave danger of injury to passers-by, and I shall give the Council at least one instance in which a baby was knocked out of its mother's arms by a kicked ball. N. M. PLOTKE, Alderman Twenty-first Ward.

ments. In the "scrimmage" or melee which ensues, the men at the bottom of the heap of players frequently sustain injuries. How to do away with these unfortunate results and preserve the strategic and beneficial effects is the question now occupying the minds of the football experts. William J. Keating, the latest victim of these mass plays, died Tuesday. He was

will hold an inquest. Keating was an employe of the armor plate department of the Homestead Steel Works, and unusually strong and robust. Andrew Hasche's death came about in this way. He was playing the position of left tackle. In this position he was the target of repeated assaults by the opposing team. When they wanted to make an

get up. He lay white and limp where the scrimmage had formed. His spine was broken, and he died the next day in the hospital. Von Gammon's death was due to concussion of the brain. He was of gigantic build and esteemed one of the best players on the Georgia University eleven. In the annual football match between the teams of the

perate of the day. When Gammon toppled over there was a resounding whack, and a dozen men collided and fell in a heap on the big full back. When the referee's whistle blew the players struggled to their feet—all except Von Gammon. He remained outstretched on the gridiron. When friends approached he mumbled a few unintelligible words, and it was seen he was bleeding from the mouth and ears. He was re-

Football Ruled Off. Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 10.—There will be no more football matches on the Government reservation at Fort McPherson. Colonel Henry C. Cook, of the Fifth Infantry, who is in command of the post, issued an order forbidding them. The members of the Fort McPherson eleven will not be allowed to meet any teams from the outside, and the practice of the military team has been greatly modified.

"Tackle your man low and throw him hard" As he saw the half-back bearing down toward his goal, which he was trying to defend, he advanced to meet him. Then as he saw his opponent could not dodge either side without encountering other players on Rich's team, the boy steadied himself, braced his legs for the shock, and grabbed at the runner's legs. The impetus of the rusher was too much for him, and he

is a remarkable change in the rules, mass plays will be used as long as the game is played. Men are always being injured in football, but rarely seriously, and I question if ever in a championship contest a player has been badly or fatally hurt. The only way to eliminate "momentum plays" is to force seven men to be on the rush line. Then there will be more open field playing, but I doubt whether there would not be more men seriously hurt than there are, as the game is played at present. If, as I have repeatedly stated, an eleven is well trained and consists of strong, well-built men, who have been coached to know the game thoroughly, and also how to play it scientifically, the danger is reduced to a minimum. JOHN MCMASTERS, Princeton Varsity Trainer.

### IN THE LEGISLATURES.

#### Other States May Follow Georgia's Lead.

Richmond, Va.—Though there are no laws against football now, the killing of young Von Gammon at Atlanta in the match between the University of Virginia and the University of Georgia has aroused some sentiment toward enacting such a law at this session of the Legislature. It is probable a bill will be introduced on the lines of the one just adopted in Georgia. There is talk of having a similar measure drafted.

#### Iowa State University Discourages the Game.

Des Moines, Ia.—There are no laws against football in this State, except prohibiting it on Sunday. The Legislature meets early in January. While the game is popular, there is much opposition to it on account of its brutality as played at present, and it is discouraged at the Iowa State University. This may lead to enactments against it.

#### Wisconsin Lawmakers May Act at Next Session.

Madison, Wis.—There is considerable opposition against football by the members of the Wisconsin Legislature, and it is considered likely now that some action will be taken against the game at the next session in 1898. Thus far this season the Wisconsin college football teams have been fortunate in escaping fatalities.

#### Unless Fatalities Stop, Indiana May Prohibit.

Indianapolis, Ind.—At the last session of the Legislature a measure was proposed making football matches as now conducted illegal. It was not pushed, however, but if the present sentiment against the game is not modified it is likely to be taken up again and forced to the front.

### EXPERTS DEFEND IT.

#### Princeton Men Declare Mass Plays Not Particularly Dangerous.

Princeton, N. J., Nov. 10.—The following signed and exclusive statements from Captain Garrett Cochran, Coaches Alex Moffat, Bailliet and Poe and Trainer John McMasters, of the Princeton Varsity football teams, were obtained to-night for the Journal in response to the following question: "Please express your opinion on mass plays, injuries sustained from them and why game would be less subject to attack if they were eliminated, and what change are necessary."

Editor New York Journal: Mass plays cause more injuries than an open system of playing, but the injuries are rarely serious. A well trained eleven, well coached and consisting of strong and well built men, such as the Tigers, Yale, Harvard or Pennsylvania, need not fear injuries from mass plays. The rule to have seven men in the line, instead of the five required at present, would obviate all troubles of this kind, but would also bar out the most beautiful part of the game—its strategy. Such a rule would bar out "ends behind" plays, pro- hibit the famous Pennsylvania "guards back" formations, and many of the most intricate and finest parts of the game. In my mind mass playing is but little rougher than open field playing, and I would hardly care to see any change made in the rules. Most of the criticisms of the football this year have emanated from the South and West, where the game is new. People don't seem to realize that more men are killed horseback riding, bicycling and in many other sports than football. The game is a tough but manly and splendid

### Homans, Princeton's Former Fullback, Describes the Fatal Mass Play.

Editor New York Journal: SEVERAL fatal accidents in the course of the last few months have led the general public to believe that football is to-day a more dangerous game than in the past. With this public sentiment some change in the rules should be made to eliminate the disadvantageous points. As we all know, the game to-day is a "close" game, mass plays predominating, and in which interference has developed to such an extent that teams depend almost exclusively upon it in order to advance the ball. In other words, instead of a player depending upon his individual efforts to get through the opposing line with the ball, he has about him six or seven men in a wedge, and the united weight and momentum of this mass are depended upon to get him through.



This necessarily makes the defense more difficult, because the man on the opposing line who is chosen as the point of attack, has to stand all of the tremendous shock. He has to dive headlong at the leader of the wedge in order to start its breaking up, so that his fellows can tackle this man with the ball, and while this can be done with comparative safety by a good, strong, thoroughly trained man, it is a very bad thing for a novice to attempt. This necessary play explains the increasing number of neck and shoulder strains among the big team men, and from what I have read I believe it caused the death of this season's unfortunates. Still, as I said before, no one of the players in the big college "prep" school teams has been hurt at all seriously, and there has, in fact, never been a death of any member of the leading teams from injuries received in the game.

At the same time there are more strains and sprains and slight breaks distributed among the players of the up-to-date game to-day than ever before, which leads one to believe that a more open game is desirable. It is certainly more desirable from the spectators' standpoint. I believe that the time is coming when rules will be formulated which will require open playing, and in a few years we may expect to see many of the wedge formations eliminated to a great extent. Until then football players will use these plays and will try open field work, when by a close formation they are nearly sure of making the required gain, which would, in all probability never be made with an open field play. ALEXANDER HOMANS, ex-Fullback and Coach, Princeton Varsity.

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I do not believe that there will be many changes in the rules for next year. JOHN POE, Ex-Quarter Back and Princeton Coach.

Editor New York Journal: You can put me on record as having always been in favor of an open system of

playing, and I believe that if possible it would be best to eliminate mass plays, but with the present rules it would be impossible to force players to try an open game when small gains were needed to have the first "down." The only way to make open playing would be to put a premium upon such play, by increasing the number of yards to be gained in three downs, made on mass formations.

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ROUGHNESS ALLOWED. Things Permitted in Football by the Latest Rules.

Rule 10—"Charging is rushing forward to seize the ball or tackle a player. Rule 19—"Charging is lawful for the opponents if the punter advances beyond his line, or, in case of a place kick, as soon as the ball is put in play by touching the ground." Rule 21—"As soon as a runner attempts to go through IS TACKLED AND GOES DOWN, or whenever a runner having the ball in his possession cries down, the referee shall blow his whistle and the ball shall be considered down on that spot. ANY PILING UP ON THE MAN AFTER THAT SHALL BE PUNISHED BY GIVING HIM FIFTEEN YARDS." Rule 29—"After the ball is put in play the players of the side that has possession of the ball CAN OBSTRUCT THE OPONENTS WITH THE BODY ONLY, EXCEPT THE PLAYER WHO RUNS WITH THE BALL. BUT THE PLAYERS OF THE SIDE NOT HAVING THE BALL CAN USE THEIR HANDS AND ARMS TO PUSH THEIR OPPONENTS OUT OF THE WAY." Rule 30 (a)—"A player shall be disqualified for unnecessary roughness, KICKING OR STRIKING WITH THE CLOSED FIST." (c) For the offences of THROTTLING, TRIPPING OR TACKLING BELOW

### THE KNEES the opponents shall receive fifteen yards or a free kick, at their option."

### SAY NO CHANGES ARE WANTED

Football Men Rejected A. A. C. Offer to Help Amend Them.

Mr. Tracy Harris, one of Princeton's expert coaches, and the chairman of the Graduates' Committee which has managed the big Princeton-Yale games in this city, still keeps up an active interest in football. He is a lawyer at No. 47 Cedar street, and would talk yesterday on the question of eliminating the danger of death from football, only cautiously, as becomes his profession.

"Although there have been a number of distressing accidents in the game this year," said he, "I still think that, as at present played, football is a scientific, healthy and manly game, and that I mean that it develops in a fellow the brain and pluck and watchfulness and cool-headedness and judgment, and so much in the struggle for professional or business prominence that he later gets into. The rules for 1887 are the same as for 1896 and last year not one man of the eight big teams, Yale, Harvard, Princeton, West Point, Carlisle, Brown and Pennsylvania, was even injured, except for a sprain or so. There were just as many deaths reported last year as there have been this year, but they were all from the smaller college teams and the school and athletic teams generally.

"All the serious accidents since football began to be played have occurred because of one thing—namely, that the weight of the body has never been a member of one of the big teams killed, and the only bad accident that I can recall in one of these games meant a broken leg. The University Athletic Club offered this year to have a meeting called for the purpose of reconsidering and possibly changing the rules of 1886, but the college men did not think it necessary. "I do not want to discuss the question of change until after the three big games this year. So far certainly nothing serious has occurred in all the practice up to date. I do not look for any serious accident at the games, either. The only thing I can make out of the present situation is that 1886 rule football should be played only by those strong enough, cool enough and energetic enough to get through first with a careful training."

### PENN. WANTS NO CHANGE.

Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 10.—"With respect to the proposed changes in the name of football for the purpose of decreasing the liability to injury," said Coach Woodruff, of the Pennsylvania eleven, this afternoon, after the regular team practice on Franklin Field, "I do not think the game as played by the colleges to-day is either particularly rough or dangerous. "As to mass formations, they are really not in use anywhere. The nearest approach to them is in the close formation used by Princeton, which, although it concentrates the weight of the attack at a particular point, does not take the strength of the defending player. The formation which we use, has not in the four years we have played it resulted in the serious injury of any opponent, nor of our own players. "The injuries of football are trivial. The players frequently sustain sprains and bruises that are more or less painful, but I have never known an instance in my connection with the game when any man who was in excellent condition has sustained a hurt that has been permanent or serious. There have been injuries of this nature, but they have invariably occurred because of a peculiar physical weakness in the player who was hurt. When a proper medical supervision of the men is provided and men who are liable to injury have been restricted from playing, I think there is no danger in the game. When asked for his opinion in the matter,

### Captain Minds stated the same belief that the injuries are due to an improper physical condition. He cited as an instance Sam Boyle's injured leg, which has bothered him all year. This, he said, was due to a local condition of the muscle.

### KEEP RUSHERS INTACT.

Then, Says Princeton's Trainer, Momentum Plays Will Cease.

Editor New York Journal: This matter of mass plays and the danger of fatalities is a pretty serious question to answer, and requires considerable reflection. In my opinion, however, unless there

## AN OPEN LETTER TO MOTHERS.

WE ARE ASSERTING IN THE COURTS OUR RIGHT TO THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE WORD "CASTORIA," AND "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," AS OUR TRADE MARK.

I, DR. SAMUEL PITCHER, of Hyannis, Massachusetts, was the originator of "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," the same that has borne and does now bear the fac-simile signature of Samuel Pitcher on every wrapper. This is the original "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," which has been used in the homes of the mothers of America for over thirty years. LOOK CAREFULLY at the wrapper and see that it is the kind you have always bought and has the signature of Samuel Pitcher on the wrapper. No one has authority from me to use my name except The Centaur Company, of which Chas. H. Fletcher is President.

March 8, 1897. Samuel Pitcher

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Do not endanger the life of your child by accepting a cheap substitute which some druggists may offer you (because he makes a few more pennies on it), the ingredients of which even he does not know.

### "The Kind You Have Always Bought"

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Insist on Having The Kind that Never Failed You.