

# Dartmouth as a Football Factor

By Louis A. Dougher

Illustrations from Photographs

FROM a mere sectional champion, a chopping-block for Yale and Harvard, Dartmouth has become a factor in Eastern football. She no longer meets Yale, but her annual contest with Harvard has become one of the fiercest battles on the Crimson schedule. And the rise of the Green has come within ten years.

In 1898 Fred Crolius was captain of the Dartmouth eleven. He was one of the best halfbacks in the game, but received scant notice from the experts, because he was but a player on a minor team. Dartmouth won a championship, but what was it? Nothing but the New England championship, disputed for by small teams in a little section of the country.

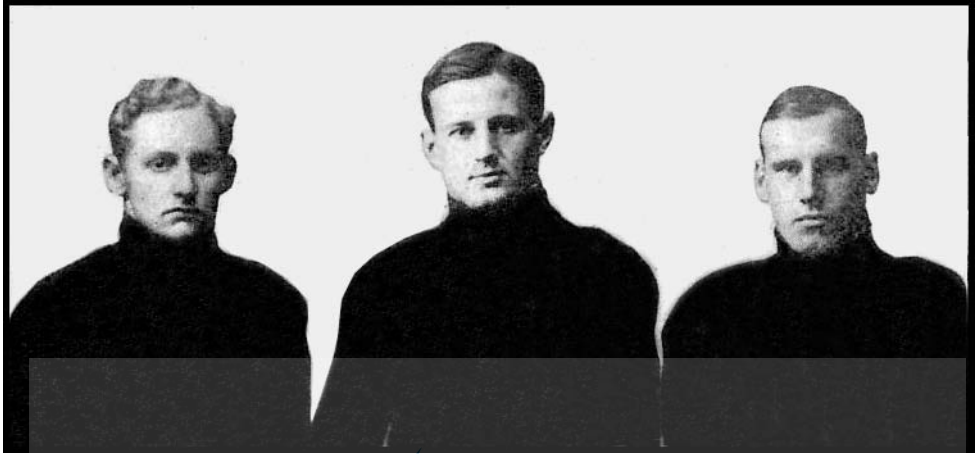
At that time the lads from Hanover provided Harvard's second game, and were beaten 21 to 0. No one dreamed they could do any better. The present coach played end on that team which was defeated at Cambridge. Today he works and plans and strives to turn out a football machine capable of defeating Harvard's giant aggregation. He has done so before. Things have changed in ten years.

Frank Lowe was a guard on Fred Crolius' eleven. Said off-hand, that means little. However, the advent of Lowe, leader of Boston Latin School's eleven, meant that a new college had dawned upon the horizon facing the schoolboy athletes of Greater Boston. Within the next few years the Dartmouth enthusiasts curry-combed Boston's schools and many more athletes chose to winter in the beautiful town of Hanover. And Boston has provided dozens of Dartmouth's best athletes on the diamond, track and gridiron. Indeed, Dartmouth is looked upon as a Boston college.

Gordon Brown's mighty football machine made no bones of defeating Frank Lowe's eleven in 1900, winning 12 to 0 in early October. No attempt was made to run up a score, and the next season Dartmouth did not meet the Elis. They have not met since. Today Yale could not meet the Green unless she refused to play Princeton or Harvard. Dartmouth has become too powerful. Today Dartmouth is a factor in Eastern football.



DALY, END; CAPT. KENNEDY, RIGHT END;  
GREENWOOD, HALF BACK.



HAWLEY, RIGHT HALF BACK; RICH, GUARD; MARKS, FULL BACK.

By the time O'Connor was captain of the Green eleven, Harvard had already discovered that the lads from New Hampshire were too sturdy an aggregation to face early in the season. Accordingly, the Dartmouth game was put later on the Crimson schedule and Harvard won, 27 to 12. The vault of Heaven burned green the night of that game, for Dartmouth had scored twice on Harvard.

In 1902 Victor Place's eleven scored once on the Crimson, but it was Myron Witham's wonderful 1903 eleven that furnished the culmination of the Dartmouth system of coaching as understood by Walter McCornack. After McCornack came Folsom, and then O'Connor, but McCornack is the embodiment of Dartmouth football, and the eleven today plays McCornack football. In many respects the Dartmouth system of plays compares favorably with that of Yale. The 1903 eleven was built for that system and was unbeatable.

Williams, Wesleyan and Amherst, her old antagonists, fell before the superior skill and weight of the Dartmouth eleven, and then came the Harvard game. The Dartmouth line swept all before it, and the crashing, grinding plunges of that heavy backfield left sore places in Harvard's memory for many a day. It was the first game played in the new Stadium, and Harvard had been defeated.

The football world became aware of a

new star in its firmament, and its rays were greenish. What kind of a team was this which defeated one of the Big Four, and then rolled over Brown like a swelling tide. The score was 62 to 0. Surely, the infant had outgrown its swaddling clothes. There was no doubt of the ability of that 1903 Dartmouth eleven. It stood on its own legs.

Fred G. Folsom, '95, a student of Walter McCornack, was the coach of that brilliant football machine led by Myron Witham, and he lasted until the advent of the new rules. They spelled defeat for him and his team, for he clung, with true Dartmouth conservatism, to the old style game. Playing Harvard to a scoreless tie in '04, and winning from Princeton 6 to 0, and playing a 6 to 6 game with Harvard in '05, Folsom failed to see the handwriting on the wall in '06, and his team, fighting fiercely with all the hardihood of a Dartmouth eleven, went down to defeat before the Crimson and later fell by a worse score before the ancient enemy, Brown.

Today Dartmouth is ranked as one of the strongest opponents facing Harvard. Boston flocks to the Stadium to witness the clash between them, and no longer do the Dartmouth supporters count only on scoring. They have tasted victory and have lost their fear of the so-called "big teams." Indeed, Dartmouth is a "big team."

And all this has happened in ten years