

Football in the Middle West

By Walter H. Eckersall

Illustration from Photograph

THIS year's changes in the rules make accurate handling and passing of the ball of unusual importance. The fluky of the game has been eliminated with the adoption of the changes. It is absolutely necessary to have the man who is to receive the forward pass get out into the open, to be free from interference in catching the oval, all of which can be accomplished only by skillful planning and handling of the pigskin.

This year's football is a great exhibition of the new game. Coaches now realize that they cannot win with the old methods under new rules, and the experience of last year has pointed the way. The defeated teams of last year can lay the cause of their defeat to their coaches, who made no effort to give them new plays with which to cope with the varied attacks of their opponents.

Pennsylvania will visit the West and try to duplicate the feat of trimming Michigan again, as will the Carlisle Indians with Minnesota. Cornell will journey to Chicago and play the Maroons on their own stamping grounds. These games will, in a way, give a comparative line on Eastern and Western football, but the comparative score method is a poor way of comparing the two sections of the country.

It is to be regretted that Michigan does not play any of the "big eight" teams. Ever since the introduction of the college pastime in these parts, the Wolverines have always been a factor for highest honors, and were always a big drawing-card whatever they played. Michigan maintains its stand, and the authorities think it best for all concerned, and seem content to go along in their chosen path.

The Gophers have a hard schedule this season. The Northerners will come to Chicago this season in an effort to take the championship back to Minneapolis. Minnesota's team always fights and never gives up until the final whistle, and no matter how the tide of battle is going, the unexpected is liable to happen any minute with some Old Gold and Maroon warrior racing down the field with the oval tucked away under his arm. Minnesota's big home game will be with the Carlisle Indians the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day.

Stagg of Chicago University has a herculean task on his hands to develop an eleven which will successfully retain the title. This is not the first time that Stagg has had to face a similar situation, and in years past, when all hope of even a fair team was abandoned, he came to the front and turned out teams which made creditable showings. The "Wizard of the Midway" realizes the possibilities of the new rules, and will undoubtedly have a great many plays with the forward pass and on-side kick playing the important parts. Steffen is captain of the team, and will do practically all the punting and drop-kicking, besides being burdened with a captain's responsibilities.

Chicago will journey to Madison to meet the Badgers in their lair, on November 21, the first time since 1905, when the Maroons were victorious by the score of 4 to 0, and this game should be the crucial game in Western football.

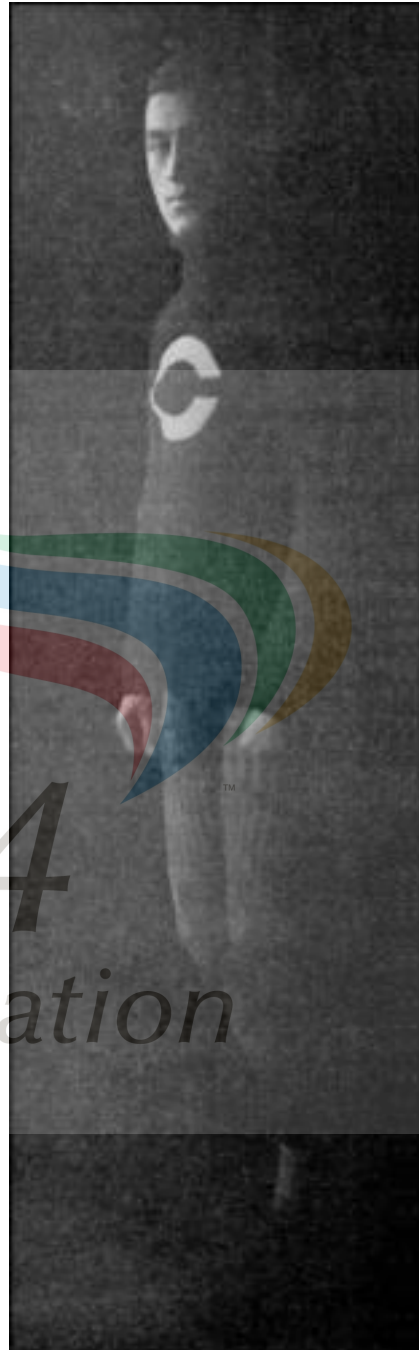
Wisconsin was always a factor in Western football until the reform wave came. Under the tutelage of Phil King, the best coach that ever handled a Wisconsin team, as is pointed out in the Spectator,

the Badgers were considered a formidable foe. On top of the reform wave came the edict of the faculty, which prevented any games with the other large institutions and a threat of abolition of the great college game at the university. Students and a few loyal supporters in the faculty finally succeeded in overcoming, to a certain degree, the wrath of that body, with the result that Wisconsin will eventually reach that place in Western football which it held before these obstacles had to be overcome.

Too much credit cannot be given to the smaller college teams who turn out good elevens, but are forced to play the larger teams earlier in the season and then pass out of sight for the remainder of the year. Probably the most noticeable example of this is the Wabash College team of Crawfordsville, Ind. The Little Giants, as they are called, have met and made good showings against all the "Big Eight" teams in the past. Last year Wabash played Michigan at Indianapolis, and held them to a six to nothing score in the first half, but the superior weight of the Wolverines finally wore them down, and they were beaten badly. After this defeat Wabash went down to St. Louis and met the St. Louis team, one of the strongest aggregations in the South, and defeated them. It may be said, however, that one of the St. Louis players, Acker, was not in the game, and his loss sadly crippled the St. Louis team. Other teams deserving mention are Marquette, state champions in Wisconsin, De Pauw, St. Viateur, Beloit, Lawrence and Oberlin.

Athletics at Pennsylvania are in the healthiest kind of condition. Scores show:

Penn. vs.	West Virginia	6—0
"	" Ursinus	30—0
"	" Bucknell	16—0
"	" Villanova	11—0
"	" State	6—0
"	" Gettysburg	23—4
"	" Brown	12—0
"	" Indians	6—6
"	" Carnegie Tech	25—0



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