





A Glimpse At the Situation

The Close of the Football Season Has Left Little to Selection of Walter Camp. Basket Ball

The football year begins with the first scrimmage and closes with the announcement of Walter Camp's selection for the All-America eleven. The position which Mr. Camp occupies in the football world is a unique one and will doubtless continue through the lifetime of the celebrated authority. Mr. Camp's reputation has been acquired as the result of a long series of painstaking selections begun in a day when such selections were rare. He had achieved a brilliant personal record on the gridiron and was an acknowledged authority on the game from the first. This combined with the fact that he was the first to undertake an annual selection was enough to give him a commanding eminence in football affairs, an eminence which he has retained in the face of all comers ever since.

No one has yet had the hardihood to dispute any of Mr. Camp's selections. He has been the court of last appeal in all matters pertaining to the favorite of college sports. And yet hardly a sporting editor picked the same team as did Mr. Camp.

The Baseball Magazine does not bring its own selection into the question as a fair comparison, as explained at the time this team was chosen, long before the close of the season and revised at the last moment after the Yale-Princeton contest. This was necessary as the magazine must go to press early in order to appear on the newstands according to schedule. There was not at that time the wealth of comment to build upon which characterizes the later days of the season. Some of the stars had not appeared in all their full merit at that time, while on the other hand other stars which up to that time had done all that seemed to justify their selection fell down badly in the final games.

For all that the selection of the Baseball Magazine agreed in five positions with that of Mr. Camp's, while at least in two others it was not in any way inferior. We refer to the two positions where Mr. Camp preferred Yale men to others selected by the Baseball Magazine. Camp chose Howe for quarterback in preference to Sprackling and Bomeisler in preference to



in the Intercollegiate World

Speculate Upon Except the Annual All America and Ice Hockey are Now in Full Swing.

Smith. The most that can be said is that in both of these positions the question of selection is a toss up, but we are willing to say without hesitation that two people out of three who saw both teams contesting would still pick Smith of Harvard as end in preference to Bomeisler, excellent player though he be, while Sprackling, on his all-round record, is the peer of Howe. The brilliant Yale quarterback fell down badly in both the Princeton and Harvard games. Bomeisler could not show to advantage in the Harvard contest owing to injuries, while Smith was one of the stars of the game and lived up in the highest degree to his former admirable record.

The Baseball Magazine picked Bluethenthal of Princeton as centre, while Camp picks Ketcham of Yale. There is no discounting Ketcham's admirable work throughout the season, but it was his costly bad pass which threw away an admirable opportunity for Yale to score in the Harvard game, a score which would have given them the victory and decided an unpopular tie game.

In the other line positions where we differed with Mr. Camp we are willing to admit his selections are preferable, as they also are in relation to the position of fullback. Personally, however, we believe that Mercer of Pennsylvania was the equal of Dalton and there are not a few who would be quick to agree with us upon that point.

Camp, unlike many other experts, had the courage to choose Thorpe of Carlisle for a back position. The Baseball Magazine feels flattered on this point for it led the way in point of time over Mr. Camp, though its publication hardly appeared so soon as did his selection. No one who saw Thorpe play could doubt that he was the greatest individual star on the gridiron. It is perhaps not too much to say that he was the greatest star which the game has ever developed.

It would be the height of folly to deny him a place on the greatest team for the year on account of an arbitrary schedule which in no wise detracted from his superlative worth on the gridiron. Mr. Camp, however, unconsciously detracts from Thorpe's all-

The Baseball Magazine Has a Fine Section Devoted to College Athletics.

round ability when he alludes to Dalton and Howe, two of his other backs as punters. No team that had a player of Thorpe's ability would think of using any other man for punting, as Thorpe is peerless in this department of the game.

Mr. Camp never picks players whom he has not seen in action. It is true that his range of observation is large, but no one man can be everywhere at the same time and many noteworthy deeds are recorded in almost every contest, the great majority of which could not be witnessed by any one spectator. Every college had its star player and no doubt some of them were worthier of mention than some whose names have been recorded in All-America selections. But there is no method devised for giving every player who competes on the hundreds of college gridirons his proper rating.

Mr. Camp is not perfect in his judgment, nor has he ever claimed to be, but he deserves the sincere thanks of the sport-loving public for the initiative he has taken in football affairs and for the great work he has accomplished in his long and brilliant career toward solving some of the knottiest problems of his favorite game.

The revival in basketball interest is one of the most encouraging features of the college sporting world. Basketball is a game which has enjoyed its ups and downs and has never seemed fully certain of popular approval. It is a game which deserves a great deal more appreciation than it has ever received. Fast, scientific and spectacular from every standpoint, it is a strenuous game to participate in and an exciting game to watch. It would now seem assured of a greater amount of support and patronage than it has yet received.

There is a certain amount of reason for the slow development of basketball as a college game of national dimen-

sions. Perhaps the most serious drawback about the game is the great advantage the home team always enjoys playing on its home grounds. It is an advantage to be sure to play baseball or football at home on a field which is thoroughly familiar and with the support of the entire body of one's fellow-students, but a team is not handicapped when playing abroad at baseball or football to anywhere near the extent it is handicapped when playing basketball under similar conditions. Where two teams are anywhere nearly matched it is a foregone conclusion that the one playing a basketball contest on its home floor will win.

One reason why basketball has not developed as rapidly as a national pastime as its supporters might wish is the difficulty experienced in having it professionalized. This will undoubtedly come in the future and assure the subsequent prosperity of a very spectacular and popular pastime.

Ice hockey is fast assuming a position in college athletics which is second in importance to none. With baseball and football it is forming a great triumvirate in which all branches of athletic skill find ample outlet. There is no finer game in the world to watch than hockey. It fairly glitters with dash and vigor. It is the embodiment of all that is spectacular and showy. It is just the game to enthuse a body of college students and so far as games go it has no rivals in the winter time except basketball. The intercollegiate hockey league is beginning its season and bids fair to outdo all former efforts. The public has certainly responded nobly to the exhibitions given last year and will no doubt do as well in the coming season. The great Canadian pastime is here to stay and the colleges are doing a great work in bringing it prominently before the public attention.