

# THE FIVE-MAN KICK

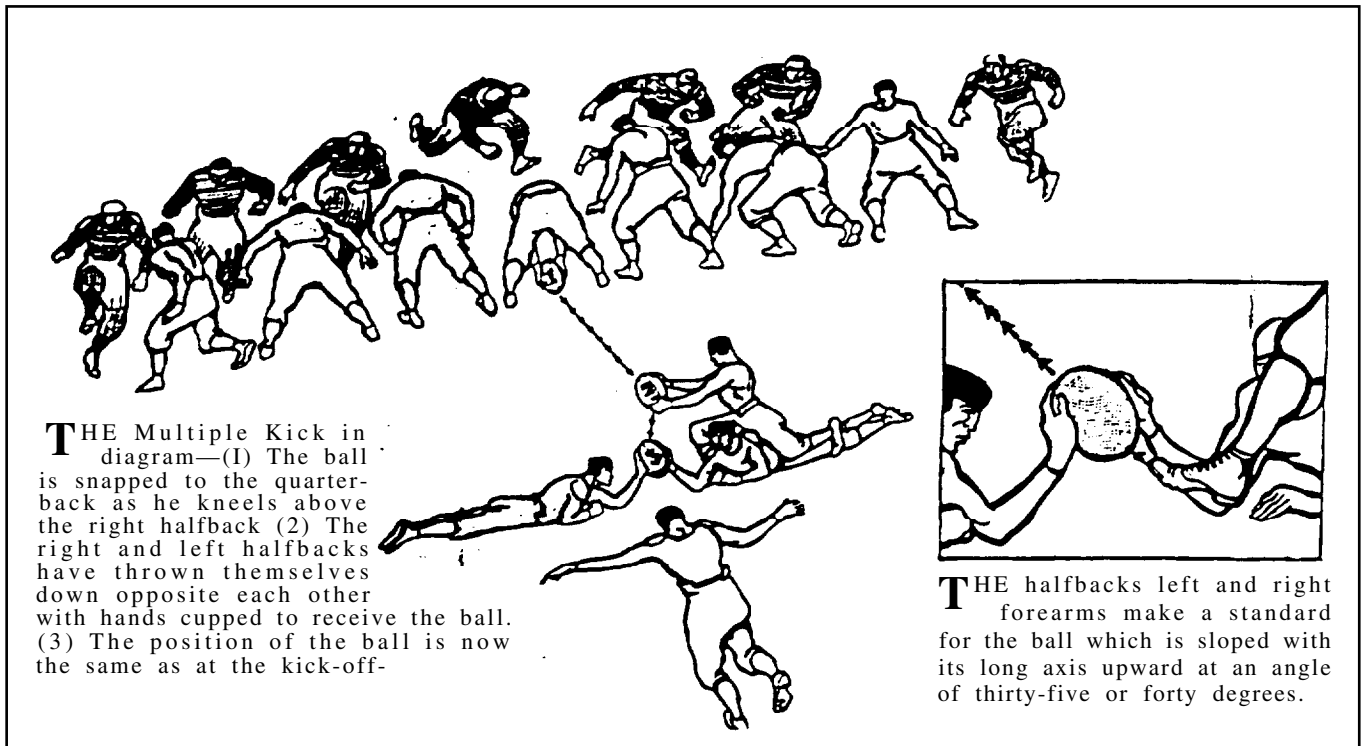
By James F. Taylor

(Editor's Note: The following article first appeared in 1916.)

For the first time in more than a decade, something entirely new has been evolved in football without the need of changing any rules. The innovation has been christened the "Multiple Kick"; multiple, because four men are required to handle the ball to get it in position for kicking, and one man to kick it. The play is made in less than two seconds. In that short space of time the ball is on its way to the opponents goal. It is probable that this kick will supplant the drop-kick.

George Foster Sanford, one of the most widely known men of football, an old Yale star, and at present head coach of the Rutgers eleven, is responsible for the multiple kick Sanford is a great friend of Bob Folwell, coach of the University of Pennsylvania, and he taught it to Folwell for the consumption of the latter's athletes. Howard Gargan is Sanford's assistant at Rutgers, and he taught it to his brother, Dr Frank Gargan, head coach at Fordham So Rutgers, Pennsylvania and Fordham were its only exponents until constant demonstration on the gridiron made it common property.

The multiple kick counts the same as a field goal or a kick from placement, and here is the



wording of the rule that gave Sanford his chance: "A goal from the field is made by kicking the ball from the field of play over the cross bar of the opponents' goal in any way except by a punt or a kickoff."

Here, then, is the multiple kick The scrimmage line forms just as it would for a running play; that is to say, the ends stay in close to the tackles. The two halfbacks lie down, stomach under, facing each other, about seven yards behind the line of scrimmage. The quarterback kneels

down, straddling the right halfback And between, and a pace or two behind the halfbacks, the man who is to kick.

The quarterback then receives the pass from the center. The halfbacks are lying with one elbow on the ground, and the heels of their right hands respectively facing each other. The quarterback immediately places the ball between the two hands, which hold it in position. The position of the ball is now exactly the same as at the kickoff, when it is raised from the ground by the little mound of dirt that is familiar to every player and spectator; that is, its long axis points upward at about 35 or 40 degrees, and toward the goal of the opponents. Thus its lower point is toward the kicker and free of the ground The kicker then steps forward, swings the toe of his shoe against the lower point of the ball, and away it goes.

The question naturally arises: What advantages has this style of kick? They are so numerous that the new play promises to revolutionize the whole art of field-goal kicking. Any football spectator will recollect with what ease the man kicking off at the beginning of a game, or after a touchdown, sends the ball spinning high into the air, and for a distance of 50 or 55 yards. Now, it is considered a remarkable thing if a man dropkicks a ball over the crossbar at a distance of 45 or 50 yards. And so it is, but with the multiple kick field goals will become far more common.

Homer Hazel managed to kick one over at a distance of 60 yards with the new method. And when the kickers have become accustomed to it, Sanford solemnly avers that they will put it over from 75 yards away as easily as a drop kicker does it today at 30 yards.

Then there is this advantage to the new kick: If a team 50 or 60 yards from the crossbars tries to get a field goal by this method and the attempt fails, well and good. The kick has gone as far as a punt would go, and the ball lands a comfortable distance from the kicker's territory. And it can be got off so fast there is practically no chance for an opposing rush line to break through and stop it. The formation for the kick is an advertisement of what is coming; there is no defense to stop the opposing ends from coming in, yet they can never block it.

It will now no longer be necessary for the man who is to kick the ball to catch the snap from center (a drop kicker), fix it in the right position, and then, with the defensive men coming at him on the jump, drop it to the ground and get off his kick in a frantic manner. For when a kicker can take his time, it means a great deal.