

ATHLETICS

(By Corpl. J. HEWITT)

Lack of condition of almost all hands and the weakness in goal occasioned by the filling in of a substitute turned victory into defeat for the Western Scots in the last twenty minutes of play against the Sir John Jacksons at Royal Athletic Park last Saturday. For three-quarters of the way the Battalion representatives played magnificent football and they looked all over winners till a fluky goal that should have been averted started the Jacksons on a rally that resulted in five rapid-fire goals being rushed through on the dazed Scots defence in a quarter of an hour. The Scots showed a lot of class in the first half, and crossed over leading by a score of three goals to one. They kept up the good work in the second half for just about fifteen minutes, and then a soft shot evaded Goaltender Conley, who was substituting for Reilly. Taking their cue from this the Jacksons began to drive in shots from all angles and distances, and helped by a greasy ball which the goaltender found difficulty in holding, they piled up the score in a hurry. The goaltender was not altogether to blame either, for the remainder of the defence cracked badly for a time. Poor physical condition accounted for this. When it was too late the Scots braced up and made a brave but futile effort to pull the game out of the fire.

As a result of this defeat, which never should have been, the Scots are tied for second place in the standing with the Wests and Jacksons, both of which teams won their first games last week-end. The Thistles are out in front, as yet unbeaten. The league table follows:

	Won.	Lost.	Drn.	Pts.	Goals	
					For.	Agst.
Thistles	2	0	0	4	6	1
Wests	1	1	0	2	3	2
Jacksons	1	1	0	2	7	4
Western Scots	1	1	0	2	4	6
5th Regiment	0	1	1	1	0	3
88th Fusiliers	0	1	1	1	1	3

The games for this afternoon are:

67th Battalion vs. 88th Regiment, at the Willows; referee, Allen.

Fifth Regiment vs. Jacksons, at North Ward Park; referee, Lorimer.

Thistles vs. Victoria Wests, at Beacon Hill; referee, Goward.

The line-up of the Western Scots showed several changes last Saturday from that of the first game, and there will be more for today's fixture. The committee is testing out all the available players, and soccer stars who are hiding their lights under the proverbial bushel should come out into the open at once. Every opportunity will be accorded them to prove their worth, and if they have the ability they will be given places on the team. With Reilly back in goal today the team will be greatly strengthened. The backs have already demonstrated their worth, and Ord and Cunningham may be reckoned as permanent fixtures. McDiarmid and Okell are both capable halves, strong in defence and aggressive in attack, and with another player of equal merit to round out the half-back line the defence would be extremely formidable. There surely should not be any trouble in filling the vacancy. The forward line is still shy an outside left, but the attacking division exhibited noteworthy improvement in Saturday's game over their weak display of the previous week, Dakers showing up in brilliant fashion. Regular practice and consequently more familiarity with each other's style will mean a big difference to the attack.

Talking about soccer, it would not be a bad idea to organize a Battalion League, with teams from the companies and sections. There are a whole lot of the fellows who prefer to take their physical "jerks" chasing the elusive pigskin rather than to go through the morning ritual on the oval.

What about the Rugby team? Last information was that the Battalion was to be represented in a league comprised of teams from the various units in the vicinity of Victoria, but no effort has since been made to uncover the Rugby talent. There is plenty of it in the Battalion.

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It is hinted that the boys will be favored with a long distance fistic battle in the near future, Pte. McHugh, best known by his ring cognomen "Cyclone" Scott, and Seaman Russ Leighton, of the R.C.N.V.R., being mentioned as the probable participants. Scott is prepared to concede the thirty pounds difference in weight, and if Leighton is willing, why, it is said there will be no obstacles thrown in the way of the bout. The affair, if it takes place, will be pulled off in the Horse Show Building, and the canteen fund will benefit considerably in a financial manner it is said.

THE "OLD SCOUT" SAYS:

That relaying messages is not as simple as it might seem. We all know the old story of the message: "Hard pressed, send up reinforcements," and the way it was received: "Hard up, send three and fourpence." But just to show this is within the bounds of possibility, we think it of interest to give an example of the way in which a recent order directing fire was relayed. The order was: "700; maple tree, 10 o'clock left, two fingers, white house; fire." This was relayed by one company as "700 maple leaves 10 o'clock fire" and by another as "200 fingers, maple sirup, fire." Regarding the latter, we think it a pity a few hot cakes were not thrown in to make the message complete.

That the O. C. Scouts is prone to judge the stamina of his men by his own. Out of a complement of thirty-three there was one day last week when we only had eighteen on parade. The rest were hors de combat suffering from severe chills, sore feet and twisted tendons. Maybe the principle of the elimination of the unfit by the survival of the fittest is going to be practised in the Section.

That remarks have been overheard to the effect that if the Scouts can scout as well as they march they will be all right.

That the white canvas "Broderick" worn recently by Pte. McCuaig is sure some headgear and that the O. C. is seriously thinking of adopting it as a distinguishing feature of the Section.

That every one of the Scouts bought a "Western Scot" last week.

That the best way to sell the paper is to make more personal mention.

That it is not true that Pte. Mumford is going to become a missionary even though a certain kind old lady did present him with a Bible when we marched down Fort Street on Tuesday.

That when "taking cover" a pine wood affords more concealment than an apple orchard. Verb. sap.

That the excuse that he was "practising night work" will not be accepted by Company Commanders in the case of Scouts who are absent from Tattoo roll call.

WILLOW LIMERICKS.

There was a Lance Jack named Jinks,
Who was very fond of his winks,
"If you tell me his history
Without further mystery
I'll buy you a couple of drinks!"

A brawny young sergeant named Patsy
Was always rather topsy;
He yelled to the waiter:
I'll see you later,
I'm going home in a taxi.

By Snooker.