

GAMELESS THE THING THAT WINS.

Gameness is the thing that wins and where even gameness cannot win against overwhelming odds, there is as much credit in making a courageous fight as there is in winning. The Americans were wiped out by the Persian hosts at Thermopylae, but the story of the fight they made will last as long as history is printed in books.

"Big Bill Edwards, in his new book, Football Days, makes a great point of the way courage is regarded among college football men.

The "game man" writes Robert Edwards, in the Boston Globe, is always a hero to his college mates, but the man who shows the slightest sign of a "yellow streak" is driven out and soon forgotten.

Football never will be a gentle game. It's a man's game, fit men to play, and in it there is no place for cowards or weaklings. In the old days, football was little short of war.

"Bill Edwards tells many stories of men who played until they dropped.

"At Williamstown," writes "Big Bill," "Hotchkiss, who was a wonderful guard, probably as great a football player as ever lived, played with the Williams team on a field covered with mud and snow three inches deep. The game was an unusually severe one, and Hotchkiss did yeoman's work that day.

"As we ran off the field after the game I happened to stop, turned, and discovered Hotchkiss standing on one side of the field, with his feet planted well apart, like an old bull at bay. I went back where he was and said: 'Come on, Bill. What's the matter?' 'I don't know,' he said. 'There's something the matter with my ankles. I don't think I can walk.'

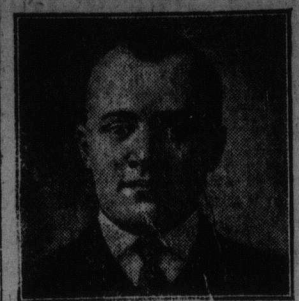
"He took one step and collapsed. I got a boy's sled, laid Hotchkiss on it and took him to his room only to find that both ankles were sprained.

"He did not leave his room for two weeks, and walked on crutches for two weeks more. It seemed almost unbelievable that a man handicapped as he was could play the game through."

Tales of Two Poles
"Arthur Poe," writes "Big Bill," "was about as game a man as the foot-

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ball world ever saw. He was handicapped in his playing by a knee that would easily slip out of place.

"We men who played with him on the Homestead team were often stopped after Arthur had made a magnificent tackle and had broken up ev-

ery interference, with the quiet request: "Pull my bum knee back into place."

"After this was done he would jump up and no one would ever know that it had been out."

Garry Cochran who wrote a few pages for "Big Bill's" book said this about Johnny Poe who was recently killed fighting with the Allies in France.

"Johnny Poe was behind the door when fear went by. Everyone knows of his wonderful courage. I remember that in the Harvard '96 game at Cambridge, near the end of the first half, two of our best men (Ad Kelly and Sport Armstrong) were seriously hurt, which disorganized the team. The men were desperate and near the breaking point Johnny, with his true Princeton spirit, sent this message to each man on the team.

"If you won't be beat, you can't be beat."

"This message brought about a miracle. It put iron in each man's soul, and never from that moment did Harvard gain a yard.

John Daly at Marathon
But there are other things that bring out courage as well as the American game of football.

I remember many instances of gameness quite as fine as those related by "Big Bill," and in many of them the heroes of the tale didn't have the advantages of a college coach, col-

spirit backing the play, long training, fine associations—the things that help so much to turn out a fighting team.

Courage in the Ring
There are examples aplenty of courage in the ring. One instance I saw at the National Sporting Club in London would class well with any football tale "Big Bill" can tell.

Tommy West fought Joe Walcott 15 rounds. It was a terrific fight, for Walcott was then the hardest hitter in the ring. In the first round Walcott whipped two left hooks into West's body, breaking two ribs and turning the broken ends in.

West, smiling, joking, went through the 15 rounds without showing a sign of his injury. He didn't even dare let his own seconds know about it for fear Walcott would be "tipped off."

When the fight was over, West walked steadily to his dressing room and fell unconscious across the threshold.

And he had no great college cause to drive him on. He was just fighting for the ideal of Tommy West, an ideal that didn't recognize the possibility of quitting.

There was John Daly of Ireland, long ago naturalized as an American citizen and living in this country. John Daly was a big six-footer, and in Ireland he was counted a fair sort of a distance runner. John took it into his head to go to Greece to the first revival of the Olympic games. He had little money and it was a hard trip. He didn't get any too much to eat, but the morning of the Marathon race found him on the starting mark with a hundred or so of well trained athletes from various countries.

So many started that the men were put in lines across the road, one line behind another, John was in a back line.

At the signal he broke through and went tearing along at a terrible pace. Soon he was far ahead of all the others and he settled down to a grim, dogged attempt to shake off the nearest pursuers.

The race was of 26 miles over a hilly road. It was a hot summer day, dry and dusty. John had no attendant to carry along water or refreshments. He was all alone. And he was running in the same heavy breeches in which he had come from Ireland.

Mile after mile he held his lead, but other runners, especially the Greeks, were pressing closer. Exhaustion came, John reeled along and began to fall. He would lie on his face in the dust for a moment then rise and stagger along the road.

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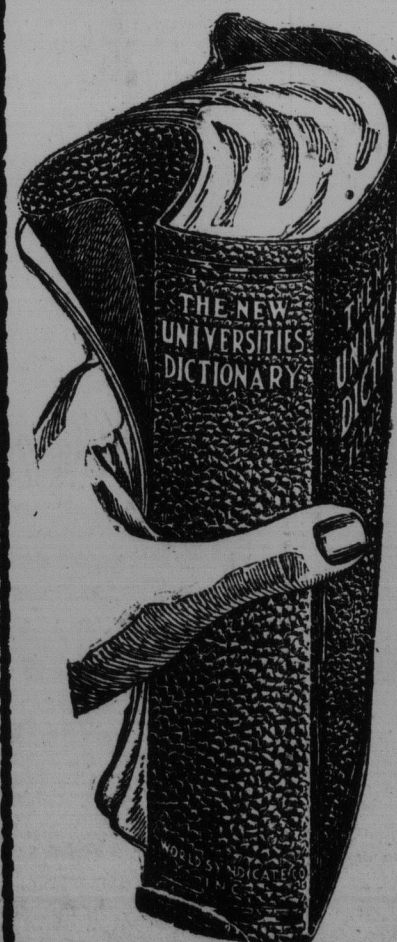
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