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THE FOOTBALL SEASON OF 1896.

The season of '96 has closed, and on the whole it cannot be said that much has been added to the brilliancy of the game, and it is a fact that the Senior Clubs are not by any means equal to those of a few years ago, although there has been a distinct advance all along the line among the Juniors. The Universities are responsible for the degeneration, being carried away by a craze for mere avoirdupois. England long ago passed through the same phase in history, the Americans are now in the throes of the big man game, we have nearly ended it many hope. Any one conversant with the history of Football in Canada must have given a sigh, when he saw the cumbersome giants of Varsity win the Ontario Senior Championship, by its defeat of the ill balanced aggregation from Queen's. That same Varsity team would have been simply annihilated by a Queen's or Osgoode team of a few years ago, and even as it was, if the Queen's team of this year had possessed a moderately good quarter back it would have won, in spite of its hundred and one defects. In the Intermediate Series the Brockville men won on their merits, and although we all rejoice in their victory, we hope the champions will learn the error of their ways another year. The game they play is merely the old exploded one of "brute strength," and will undoubtedly fail when met by skill. Brockville was fortunate in its opponents this year, and if the Club sticks to its present tactics, will meet certain defeat when it runs up against a moderately good team.

Both senior series have much to learn from the juniors, and although they may resent the suggestion, still there is nothing like appreciating a good thing. England has had a thousand times more experience than we have had in football, and what has been the result? they play a cleaner and better game there. The exhibition of football given by the Granites is the nearest approach to English football we have had, and the Granites have much to learn before they reach perfection, and yet they scored 111 points to 14 made by their opponents, and at least nine of the fourteen were "happy chances." The inference is plain, there is no such disparity in the scores of the other series, and yet the junior teams were better than usual all around. It was the style of game. Let us have more combination work, less "brute force," more passing and better dribbling.

The Granites won the Junior Football Championship of Ontario with such ease that there was very little excitement in the contests. The first match against Brockville was expected to be an easy thing, as the Easterners were tyros at the game, and at a distinct disadvantage, when competing against lads who had played Rugby since the time they could walk. When the teams met the weakness of the Brockville boys was at once apparent, and the score—33 to 0—does not by any means convey the true difference. The Brockvillians are a plucky aggregation, and will give a better account of themselves in years to come, as the football fever has developed with some strength