

kick is given to the opposite side. When the player is about to catch the ball from a kick, players of the opposite side must allow him five yards before charging on him, thus preventing many accidents.

A free kick is the penalty also for lying on the ball in the scrimmage. Formerly when a side had a lead of a few points the scrimmage men would kill time by piling up on the ball in a heap, and the play would be blocked, much to the disgust of their opponents and the spectators, who would see nothing but a chaotic bunch of arms and legs with no apparent attachments, where the ball lay being left to conjecture; now the dread of a free kick effectually prevents this scheme, and the play is made much quicker by the short, sharp scrimmages which are now one of its characteristics.

Last season's play was remarkable for the number of experiments tried, and this was shewn by the widely different formations of the leading teams.

Two teams played the heeling out game, relying principally on the back division to gain ground by kicking, and on the wings to prevent the return of the kick. Others played seven wing men, and relied on them to stop any kicking or running of the half-backs. This was done by continuous and flagrant off-side play, and in one match the ball when passed back by the quarter to his own half-back was caught by an opposing wing. That style of play should be severely dealt with, and will, no doubt, receive more attention next season from the officials.

The dribbling game of another team demoralized this style of playing, but it was successfully met by having two quarter-backs, who fell on the ball or picked it up and ran with it as soon as it came through the scrimmage.

The game is in too rudimentary a condition to make an absolute comparison, and to say that because a team won, that therefore its style of play was necessarily the best, but I think we may safely say that the two best styles seems to be the heeling out game and the dribbling, probably a combination of both. Certainly

if many wings are to be played in future, the number of officials will have to be increased and an umpire appointed to watch the men for off-side and foul play,* while the referee confines his attention to the ball.

This is now done in the American matches and is very successful. It would prevent a degeneration of the game into that roughness from which it has been rescued with such difficulty.

The main points of differences of the Canadian game from that of the American colleges and that played in England will be best noted from a short description of each them.

In the American game the play is started by the side that has the ball putting it down on the ground, usually about ten yards from the centre of the field, one man standing close to it and the others close to him. He touches it with his foot and then passes it back with his hand to the quarter-back who passes to one of the backs and he runs with it.



The wedge in the American game.

The usual way is for the holder of the ball to get in the centre of a wedge or V, who rush him ahead by main force. As soon as the ball is "down" or stopped, the centre man or snap back as he is called puts the ball in play by passing to the quarter, who in turn runs or passes to the backs. If in four of these downs the side having the ball has not advanced five yards they have to surrender the ball to their opponents. The lines on the field indicate five yard spaces and are for the assistance of the referee in determining whether or not the team makes the necessary distance.

*Since this was written, at a meeting held in Montreal a Canadian Union was formed, and provision was made for this point by appointing an umpire to assist the referee with such duties as he may appoint. This should solve the difficulty of off-side play.