

SPORTS AND PASTIMES



THE football season, as far as Canada is concerned, is over, and it has been the liveliest in the history of the game that we have known for many years past. The all-important question of championship has been settled definitely, and is now held by the best football team in Canada. It was just another proof of the uselessness of reasoning by analogy. According to all known rules of cause and effect before the match, it should have been Montreal's victory; that is, when judgment is based on the fact that McGill's fifteen easily beat Toronto 'Varsity, who had held down the otherwise invincible Osgoode Hall men to a drawn game of ten points each. How such a fifteen as played on the M.A.A.A. grounds on Saturday could be anywhere near the level of the team that played McGill and was most ingloriously beaten on the previous Saturday, passeth football comprehension. The 'Varsity played a game which for its crudeness and general slowness would appear to pick them out as a sacrifice to any moderately good team. The Osgoode Hall boys played a game that was perfect in most aspects. What is troubling my mind now is not why Osgoode beat Montreal, (that was made very patent before the first fifteen minutes' play), but rather how it was that the 'Varsity were ever considered in the same class. The game the latter played with McGill was about as slow and uninteresting an exhibition as usually falls to the lot of football men to witness. The beating administered to them was a marked one, and the only matter for surprise was that they succeeded in scoring as much as seven points. On the other hand, the Osgoode men played a winning game from the start. They outplayed their opponents at every point and at all stages of the game, and they decidedly proved that with the present composition of the Quebec championship team that the latter have very much to learn, and somehow or other they seem a bit slow at learning. The style of play introduced this season by the Montreal club proved a very successful move; but there was one thing which seemed to be overlooked, and that was that there is no potent law which prevents another club from adopting the same kind of tactics. With Ottawa College, in the first match, this style worked to a charm; in the second match Ottawa College proved, by adopting the same tactics, that the scheme was a good one, and played a drawn match with the Province of Quebec champions. The Toronto men, with the usual legal instinct, argued that Montreal would be prepared for emergencies if they thought Osgoode Hall had "got onto" their own particular style, but still they calculated on human nature, and with the hope that Montreal would not abandon the game that served them so well during the fore part of the season, they started in to counteract its effects from a new and otherwise unthought of basis. It was well calculated, and it succeeded. It puts one in mind of the cold-blooded officer who one day found a dead soldier on the field of battle clothed in a cuirass that hitherto had been invulnerable. He studied the question and found just one vulnerable point in the armour. Then he kept his troopers up all night practising a new thrust, and next day that particular style of cuirass was of no earthly use. The weak spot had been discovered and that ended it. The Osgoode Hall men reasoned in very much the same way. They knew that Montreal placed a great deal of dependence on the dribbling game, but instead of becoming imitators they hunted round for some method to block that particular fancy, and they hit upon a most serviceable one. They put two men behind the scrimmage line instead of one, and trusted to Providence and the good work of the half-backs and wings to counteract anything the Montreal forwards could do in the scrimmage. In the first half it was all in favour of the Osgoode Hall men, but the Montrealers did not seem as if they had waked up yet. In the scrimmage line there was comparatively little difference, for the fact of boring through and making the quarter-backs' life a burden to him seemed a set purpose of two or three of the Montreal forwards.

Speaking about the game, there is not much to be said in favour of the Montreal club. They played a nice, hard

game, but the other people played a nicer and a harder game. Take, for instance, the scrimmage line. It was all very good in its way when it tackled Ottawa College, but when it had six men on and the Osgoode's had only five still the latter managed to break through and the leather was passed back in fine shape. This showed the weakness of the Montreal line and accentuated the loss of R. Campbell, who would have been invaluable in the tight scrimms that marked the match. From a playing point of view, there is only one way to look at this match, and the natural inference is—Who played the better game? There is not much difficulty in deciding a point like this. The best team won, and that is all there is to it. I don't at all agree with the decisions of the referee, but still I believe that leaving out the disputed points the Osgoode Hall men had the best of the bargain.

In the scrimmage Montreal was overmatched, although it read five to six. The wings were very nearly useless, or were slow enough to justify doubts of their existence. The half-backs did not work up into anything like their usual form, and a series of muffs, which were unexpected and disappointing, were accountable in a great measure for the score. Miller, at full-back, had his work cut out for him, and he took some narrow chances, that fortunately succeeded, and got the ball in front of the line time and again when less plucky players would have rouged. Football, like everything else these days, is improving, and the improvement principally takes the form of combination. It is team play now-a-days that wins football and lacrosse matches. Brilliant runs may serve their purpose once in a while, and look very nice from the stand, but they are next to useless when fast wings lap over from the sides and spoil calculations. A pass and a punt would be much more serviceable. It was the want of good judgment in this matter, assisted by the mistakes already referred to, that made the work of the Montreal halves non-resultant. They attempted runs when they had no chance of getting through and nearly always lost ground in consequence, while the few times that there was an opening the ball was religiously punted. There was one brilliant exception, and that was when Taylor succeeded in getting a try in the second half. It was really a brilliant run, and went a long way toward making up for some most disastrous muffs put down to that usually careful player. The play of Drummond was disappointing all through. It is true that it is the first championship match he had played in this season and was not accustomed to the new ideas. His attempts to run were all very well and last year would probably have succeeded, but Osgoode Hall's wings were too fast to admit of more than a very little individual play of this sort. At quarter-back Fairbanks did some really good work and nearly always succeeded in getting a yard or two when he charged with the line. His passing back, too, as far as he was concerned, was good, but there was comparatively little dependence to be placed on the men behind him, and that was discouraging. About Osgoode there is comparatively little to be said, for every one of the fifteen played a splendid game. The work of Smellie and Senkler at quarter was phenomenal, and they had the satisfaction of knowing that to them belongs most of the credit of doing away with Montreal's famous dribble. Why the Montrealers did not change their tactics after the first half is something that no football fellow has yet been able to find out. And then the captain of the team—Mr. Senkler—he is inimitable; a rattling good player and, like Richard, owning a tongue that could wheedle the devil.

There were more than two thousand people on the stand, and to judge from the way they applauded at the right moment most of them knew football. Following is a summary of the play, the officials for the day being:—Referee, Mr. H. Yates, McGill; goal umpires, Messrs. Coin and Smart; touch judges, Messrs. Arnton and Halliday. The teams lined up as under:—

Osgoode Hall goal.					
McKay,					
J. H. Senkler,	Kerr,	Cameron,			
Smellie,	E. C. Senkler,				
J. Moss,	Rykert,	Ballentyne,	Blake,	W. Moran,	
J. Farrell,	Copeland,	McGivern.	J. Cross.	(wings.)	
O					
Jamieson,	Black,	Higginson,	Bell,	Louson,	
Fry,	Jamieson,	Reford,	James,	Baird,	
(wings.)				(wings.)	

Taylor,	Fairbanks,	Campbell,
	Drummond,	[Miller,]
	Montreal goal.	
The scoring points give a good idea of the game:—		
FIRST HALF.		
Osgoode Hall.	Montreal.	
Rouge..... 1	Safety..... 2	
Try and goal..... 6	Touch in goal..... 1	
Try..... 4		
SECOND HALF.		
Touch in goal..... 1	Try in goal..... 6	
Rouge..... 1	Rouge..... 1	
Rouge..... 1		
Try and goal..... 6		
Totals..... 21		10

It might be imagined that all Canadian football interest centred in the match for the championship between Osgoode Hall and Montreal, but it did not. There was almost as much interest taken in the great match between Harvard and Yale, in which the Yalensians knocked several sorts of spots off the crimson escutcheon. Here again was another instance of team play, in which the Yales excelled and the Harvards were deficient. Brilliance and dash marked the play of the Blues from New Haven, while Harvard never seemed to be able to get all the good out of the material at her disposal. As usual there is some excuse for the defeated team. This time the blame is laid on the coaches. There is no doubt that Harvard has a magnificent team, but only one team can win at a time. The teams were:—

<i>Yale.</i>	<i>Positions.</i>	<i>Harvard.</i>
Hinckey.....	Left end.....	Emmons.
Winter.....	Left tackle.....	Waters.
Heffelfinger.....	Left guard.....	Dexter.
Sanford.....	Centre.....	Bangs.
Morrison.....	Right guard.....	Mackie.
Wallis.....	Right tackle.....	Newell.
Hartwell.....	Right end.....	Hallowell.
Barbour.....	Quarter back.....	Gage.
Bliss.....	Left half back.....	Corbett.
McClung.....	Right half back.....	Lake.
McCormick.....	Full back.....	Trafford.

Referee—Alexander Moffett of Princeton.
Umpire—Coffin of Wesleyan.

The result of the Yale-Princeton match was not a surprise to anybody who had studied the play of the Yale-Harvard contest, and it was to be expected that Yale would win. After the match with the Cornell boys, when Princeton had a very narrow squeeze, it was only to be expected that an eleven that could whitewash Harvard would be able to do up the tigers. And so the result proved, as evidenced by the score—Yale, 19; Princeton, 0.

The despatches recently received from London will be read with interest by Quebec province people generally, as relating to the Canadian strong man, Louis Cyr. The reports saying that he has surprised London at his first exhibition seem to a certain extent to have been manufactured for the American market, especially when it is considered that the philanthropic Mr. R. K. Fox is supposed to be his financial backer. There is hardly a doubt that in a back lift without harness Cyr has not an equal; but that is only one trial of strength. The very fact of being strong should carry with it by implication a certain degree of endurance. The great protonyms of our modern strong men at least suggest some endurance. Samson could not endure Philistines, and so he put on another sort of endurance and slew a few of them, and, if I remember right, he was tired after the job and was thirsty. Hercules had twelve little chores mapped out for him by Eurystheus that required some little endurance. It is not related that the Cyclopean attendants on Vulcan had a particularly easy time of it; and Ajax does not seem to have been particularly short-winded when he competed with another strong man of his day, one Ulysses. Se we might naturally expect so ne endurance among strong men. Cyr lays claim to no endurance whatever, he is simply a weight lifter, and that in a somewhat clumsy fashion, too. If his particular style of putting up dumb-bells is permitted in a competition in England it will be a surprise. That he is a great weight-lifter, no one doubts; that he should be considered a champion strong man everybody will be inclined to doubt.

R.O.X.