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BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus

HOW TO PLAY FOOTBALL

Interesting suggestions locally --- how to turn wet weather into goals

(By "Andy" Ducat, Manager of Fulham Club.)
(Reprinted from "Greenock Herald")

Teams who know how to play according to the weather possess a big advantage over others. Weather affects every game. Few footballers study the way to turn bad conditions to good use,

Dribbling becomes the decisive power on a wet pitch. Good dribbling combined with short passing forms a match-winning force after a spell of rain. Slippery ground checks active defence. A really good man with a pair of properly studded boots can get the ball down almost alone.

Backs and halves know the risk of strains to muscles and tendens. They are naturally careful how they tackle. Charging becomes very moderate. This is all to the advantage of the dribbler.

Swinging passes out to the wing should only be adopted as a last resort when the ground is thoroughly soaked. Your wing man is not able to make the best of his speed, and the quickest way of getting the ball through will be to keep it close between the centre and his inside men. They play in together with short passes and spells of dribbling.

The backs need to use their toes—instead of the instep— to shift the heavy ball if it comes dangerously near the goal.

Here a pass out to wing is likely still to produce the most desirable results.

Heavy Ground Tactics

The wing man must be closely backed up by his inside man and his half back. A short-passing triangle game between the three is likely to pay. Keep farther away from the touch line than you would on a dry pitch. A slip may cause loss of control of the ball which, going over the touch-line, means a throw in by your opponents and a chance lost. The inner man must choose an opportunity as they near the goal to dribble inwards a little, so that the pass to the centre forward is a short one.

Though the ball is "sticky" and passes are hard to give, remember they are easier to take. Therefore a short pass that might otherwise have been too quick for the receiver becomes one of easy pace. Ballooned balls are likely to be frequent since players will use their toes when a long lick is needed. Here a man who can head—especially a back who can head the ball away from his own goal—is a tremendous asset to his side.

The ball stops almost dead when it touches the ground. Allow for this when receiving a forward pass. Don't run over it and slip in trying to recover.

Many teams who have learned tactics from a blackboard, with out many opportunities for practice, improve amazingly under the influence of a wet pitch. The reason is that they are not able to put their theories into practice very easily on a hard pitch. The ball travels quickly, passes are missed, and the campaign collapses. But wet grounds provide a field day for "blackboard footballers." Passes are easy to take, control is hard to lose, and the theorists are able to carry out their plans.

From this it becomes plain that blackboard lessons are all to the good for those who cannot get ball practice.

Every footballer ought to have two pairs of boots—a pair with short studs for dry grounds and a pair with long studs for wet grounds.

If an army marches on its stomach then a football team outwits opponents with its boots. One reason why teams sometimes show a sudden reversal of form is that they have come equipped with the wrong pair.

I regard a man with long studs on a heavy ground as being worth a lot more than a man with short studs.

Put the studs in yourself; a bootmaker generally puts them in the wrong places. Take care not to leave a gap in the middle of the ball of the foot. This is where your spring comes from when you jump forward. You need a stud there.

Wet grounds make football boots stretch at least a size. My own plan is to buy boots a size too small, put them on, and soak them in water. The boot stretches to the size of the foot, and will not stretch any further when used on a wet ground. Clean and oil your boots immediately after using them.

Worn out studs are worse than short studs. You must renew these most essential accessories frequently.

Barred boots are good on a dry, hard pitch, but they have serious disadvantages on a heavy one.

Playing in Snow

Most of us can remember playing a football match in the snow. If the snow has covered the ground when you start, tactics are the same as for a soaked pitch. The players soon turn the snow into a quagmire. Dribbling and short passing is the game.

Sometimes the ground is dry when the game starts, but a shower makes it "surface wet." Here the ball will begin to play tricks. This is just the sort of pitch that cricketers call a bowler's paradise. Though the ground itself will not force a slow game, the side which slows up its passes will win. The ball does many strange things on a long journey, and the only way to be accurate is to play slowly.

Sport Chat

Babe Fortin made a hero of himself in the baseball games that were played between Stewart and Hyder over the holiday week-end. This probably accounts for Babe's decision to stay at Stewart in spite of the fact that he communicated with local friends only a day or so ago that he was planning on coming to Prince Rupert for the summer. After disappointing the Stewartites by losing his first game a week ago Sunday, and that by a narrow margin, Babe came back in great style on Sunday and Monday of this week. With Hyder three runs ahead in the Sunday game, Stewart put Babe in the box and he held his opponents scoreless while Stewart came up from behind to the long end of a 6-5 score. But this was nothing to what happened on Monday when the popular little southpaw, so well known on the local diamond, pitched Stewart through a nine inning game to a shut out victory, Stewart getting six runs. And so he is staying in Stewart for a while longer, anyway.

The Claxton football team showed the local Cold Storage aggregation a few fine points about soccer last Saturday afternoon and the team could undoubtedly give a local select football team a good run for its money. The baseball game between Prince Rupert and Claxton, won by the home team, outside of the first inning, was not too bad an exhibition. Both sides showed weakness in fielding which will be remedied with practice. The Claxton boys told Ben Self that they could muster a lacrosse team at the cannery which would excel either of the football or baseball teams. If this is the case, there might be another open date later in the season for Claxton when football, baseball and lacrosse games —all three—could be staged.

Both Brick Skinner and his second, Dido Gurvich, came back from Stewart yesterday claiming that they had been robbed of the decision when the boxing contest there on Monday between Skinner and Harold Blanton was decided a draw. Skinner also stated that he had been asked to come back for a return bout on July 1. In view of the claim being made that Skinner was battling in his enemy's camp and for that reason he did not get a fair decision the suggestion would seem appropriate that any return bout should be staged in Skinner's home town and that there be an unbiased ticket of judges. Such a bout would undoubtedly be a drawing card for Prince Rupert boxing fans whose entertainments are few and far between.

BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Games to be Played Twice a Week Alternating With Football

Under the baseball schedule just issued by the local league, games will be played here twice a week alternating with the football games. The first clash will be tomorrow when the Lumber Mill meets the Sons of Canada and this will be followed by a game between the Sons of Canada and the Gyros on Tuesday next. Following is the schedule for the first half of the season:

May
28—Mill vs. S.O.C.
June
2—Gyro vs. Mill.
5—S.O.C. vs. Gyro.
8—S.O.C. vs. Mill.
11—Mill vs. Gyro.
16—Gyro vs. S.O.C.
19—Mill vs. S.O.C.
22—Gyro vs. Mill.
25—S.O.C. vs. Gyro.
29—S.O.C. vs. Mill.
July
3—Mill vs. Gyro.
6—Gyros vs. S.O.C.

PLAYERS SUSPENDED

After hearing the evidence in the case, the board of control of the Prince Rupert Football Association last night suspended R. B. Skinner for five weeks and Dave Scott for four weeks. This is the result of a dispute between the two in the game last week between the Callies and Veterans. At the close of the meeting S. D. Macdonald, president of the control board, tendered his resignation.

A bylaw providing for the temporary borrowing of $50,000 from the bank until tax collections for the year are made and debentures are marketed was put through its first readings at the meeting of the city council last night. This is the third bylaw of this nature that has been put through by the council this year. The first was for $50,000 and the second for $25,000.

DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIED ADS.

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WANTED.—Producer, woman or man, for Prince Rupert, to sell made in B.C. housedresses etc. direct to consumer. Cash commission. State references and experience in first letter. Samples arranged for. Great West Sales Co., Ltd., 319 Pender W., Vancouver.

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FOR SALE.—14 h.p. Frisbee, 2 cylinder, 4 cycle and equipment. Snap at $450.00.
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Piston rings for autos and marine engines.
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Hull 18 foot, suitable for small engine. Price for quick sale $75.
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Ford Motor, $40.00.
Northern Exchange, Phone 23.

FOR SALE or Rent—The Essington Hotel, Port Essington, B.C. containing 28 bedrooms partly furnished, for terms apply A. D. Hardie, Port Essington, or John L. Christie, Prince Rupert.

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FOR SALE.—Quantity of used shiplap, window frames and sashes. Apply A. S. Lewis, 225 Second Ave. W. 126

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