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How to Play Football

Making the most of talent---weakness of forwards too often evident

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

Too much has been heard of forwards who fall at critical times. You read every day, ::the defence struggled well, but the forward line showed a lamentable lack of decision in front of the goal."

The reason for this is what I have stressed in a previous article—failure to plan the attack before play begins.

You can easily plan a defence. So long as your backs cover each other and your goalkeeper knows his job your defence is bound to be reasonably sound. But when you come to the forward line you have to teach five men—eight if you count the halves—to combine in one plan. And when you come to the plan itself you are confronted with the choice of several good methods of attack.

First you must study the needs of each position in the attack, and see which man fits in best.

Uneven talent makes planning for an amateur team hard. You have one big man who knows what to do with the ball when he gets hold of it in front of the goal. Where will you put him? Centre forward? Unfortunately he is a man without guile. Though he can plant the ball between the posts he cannot work it through the defence. He is clever from the neck downwards.

Supporting the Centre

What you must do is put this star shooter at centre, and support him with an inside man who can make openings for him.

Though an inside man is better when he can shoot, it is probable that an amateur team will not boast two crack shots. Therefore the shot of the team must go centre, while the most useful inside man will be one who is able — and willing — to work up openings for his centre forward.

Your two wing men are probably uneven. One is merely a good runner, the other is a sprinter of unusual speed.

Put the sprinter on the wing beside the cleverest inside man. These two between them ought to be able to get the ball down and hand it to the centre to cap the good work. Don't try to spread your talent over the whole line. Three good men working close together can do a lot more than the same men spread out by two mediocre players.

It is no use the inside man making openings in mid-field if his wing forward is going to lose the ball in the run down.

Similarly it is no good having a crack sprinter and dribbler supported by a man who cannot get the ball out to him.

When you have three good forwards play them together. You will then have a combination.

Your Right Wing

If this combination is on your right wing, the left wing—the two mediocre forwards—will be expected only to keep their end up. You help to this end by setting your best back to cover this left wing.

How the plan works in actual play is that the outside right runs the ball up and centres to his centre-forward, who is your crack shot. On the other hand the inside right may make use of his guile to create an opening in mid-field. He then either runs the ball up himself or he swings it out to the right wing. Whatever happens your star shot is ready to look after the ball when it arrives in front of goal.

—Should the left wing make an opening, and fail with their shot at goal, the centre forward may be able to retrieve the ball and see what he can do with it. Or if there is a scramble for the ball after the shot, your wily inside right may get a chance of using his talents.

These are not conventional tactics, I am well aware of that. Conventional tactics may be described as those adopted by the most successful professional teams. But what is the truth about successful professional teams? They are successful because they have picked out from a big supply of men who fit in together—who balance naturally that is. Then they give them a course of intensive training to make them play together.

When you manage an amateur team you have to make the best of what you have got, and frequently you are compelled to do it without chance for practice.

The thing to do, then, is to put your fastest winger next to your cleverest inside man, and choose as your centre forward a man who can put the ball into the net when one of his forwards passes it to him. If you have a big, strong man who might become a good shot with practice it is worth while to give him the practice. Big men have a considerable advantage when they play centre forward.

Professional teams are rarely compelled to make the best of a mixed group of men. That is why I think amateur teams make a mistake in copying their tactics instead of framing a plan round what talent they possess.

Study Your Men

The captain must study his team, as so much fresh humanity. He will, of course, be told by the men themselves that they can only play at inside right, or outside left or some other positions. One man may assert that he can play everywhere except in goal, when the truth is that he is a born goal-keeper. Take no notice of what the players say themselves. A man may have played at inside left in the last team he represented, and he may have got used to that position to such an extent that he now believes that this is the only place on the field where he does himself justice. Yet the truth is probable that he was put in the wrong place by his last captain and will actually do better somewhere else when he gets used to the new place.

To plan a campaign for an amateur forward line — study your men, give each one his place, and see that each man's talent is exercised to the full. Let your sprinter get the ball always when there is a chance of a run down, and your crack shot find the ball dropped unerringly at his feet when an accurate kick between the posts is called for.

CHAMPIONSHIP BADMINTON TO BE TOMORROW

Men's Singles One Night and Ladies' Singles and Mixed Doubles Next

The Prince Rupert Club is holding its annual championship tournament Wednesday and Thursday evening of this week at their courts in the De Luxe Hall commencing each evening at eight o'clock.

Wednesday the men's singles will be played and on Thursday there will be the ladies' singles and mixed doubles. The best out of three to be declared winner, 15 points each game. There will be no handicaps and opponents will be drawn for.

Sport Chat

College stars have again been recruited this year by Managers Huggins and McGraw for the New York Yankees and Giants baseball teams. The Giants have three promising prospects in Lou Gehrig, former Columbia baseball star; John Haskell of football and baseball fame at Haskell Indian Institute, and Elmer Dugan who hurled brilliantly for Brown University last year. The Giants newest acquisitions from the college ranks are Jim Tunney, formerly of Holy Cross and Jim McGeveney, who pitched for Notre Dame before joining the ranks of the professionals.

Both McGraw and Huggins have had examples of what the colleges can produce in Wallie Pipp, the veteran first baseman of the Yankees, who received his early training at Georgetown, and Frankie Frisch, captain and star second baseman of the Giants, who was developed at Fordham. With these two as examples it is not surprising that the pilots of the two New York clubs have kept an eye on the college stars of recent season, and acquired those that seemed to give promise of becoming major leaguers.

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ANOTHER SENDOFF MISS JEAN BAILEY

Guest of Honor at Home of Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Ponder Last Night

Some sixteen young people were present last evening at a delightful party given by Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Ponder, 508 Lotbiniere Street, in honor of Miss Jean Bailey who leaves the city on tomorrow night's train to act as selling agent for the Bacon Fisheries. The evening was happily spent in playing games, and commmunity singing and dancing accompanied by Mrs. Ponder at the piano. A delectable buffet luncheon was served at midnight, after which dances and games were thoroughly enjoyed until the early hours.

PARKS BOARD IS NAMED BY MAYOR

S. K. Campbell, J. C. McLennan and E. Van Gastel to be Outside Members

In compliance with a report from the board of works regarding the establishment of a parks board in the city which was adopted by the council last week, Mayor Newton announced last night that he had appointed S. K. Campbell, J. C. McLennan and E. Van Gastel to be members of such board outside of the city council. The other members of the board are Ald. Perry, chairman of the board of works, City Engineer F. W. Pearson and City Solicitor E. F. Jones.

AN ANCIENT CUSTOM REVIVED ANNUALLY

Among the very interesting customs that are revived at public holidays is the yearly feast of Hot Cross Buns on Good Friday. For centuries the cobbled streets in the towns of old England rang with the cry: "One a penny—two a penny—hot cross buns."

From street to street hawkers pushing their two wheeled barrows sold these time honored delicacies. Nowadays we do not find such strenuous methods. You naturally phone your grocer and insist upon getting "Electric-Bake" Hot Cross Buns.

25c per dozen, made by the Electric Window Bakeries. 85

Under the usual conditions, use of the Acropolis Hill grounds on May 24 was granted by the city council last night to the Northern B.C. Agricultural & Industrial Association.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

In the Matter of the "Companies' Act, 1921"; and
In the Matter of an Application by the Rocher de Boule Copper Company to be restored to the Register under Section 168 of the said Act.

TAKE NOTICE that an application will be made to the Presiding Judge in Chambers at the Court House, Prince Rupert, B.C., on Tuesday the 28th day of April, A.D. 1925, at the hour of 10.30 o'clock in the forenoon or so soon thereafter as the motion may be heard on behalf of the above mentioned Company for an order that the said Company be restored to the register of Joint Stock Companies.

AND TAKE NOTICE that in support of said application will be read the Petition of the Company issued herein and the affidavit of Lewis W. Patmore sworn on the 30th day of March, A.D. 1925, and filed herein.

DATED at Prince Rupert, B.C., this 30th day of March, A.D. 1925.

W. O. FELTON,
Solicitor for the Petitioner.

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