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How to Play Football

Handshaking and rough play both indicate inability of players to control themselves

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

A correspondent who manages a football club for young men writes that his players have "become infected with the professional habit of shaking hands vigorously with any member of the team who scores a goal." He asks what I think. Ought he to stop these demonstrations?

Shaking hands with the scorer of a goal—the habit of clustering round a player to do this grows worse every season—is exactly the same thing as rough play. I mean it shows a lack of knowledge of football and an inability on the part of the players to control themselves.

Those who know the game are well aware that very often the man who puts the ball between the posts has very little to do with the actual scoring of the goal.

Frequently the half who made the opening, or the wing forward who brought the ball down is the man who deserves the congratulations.

Even the opposing goalkeeper may be responsible for the goal. He may have foozled an easy save, or run out too soon and thrown his chance away. Yet you wouldn't think of shaking him by the hand, would you?

The inside forwards are played to shoot goals. They don't always do so, but to shoot is certainly an important part of their work. Nobody shakes hands with the referee because he blows the whistle at the right time, and therefore nobody should shake hands with a forward when he puts the ball through on being given a chance.

However, it is more important to discuss not what players should do, but how they can be made to do it.

Annoying the Opponents

I have had at the back of my head for some time an idea that this effusive hand-shaking is nothing but an attempt to "rattle" the opponents—or "get their goat" as they say in another country.

A side scores a goal, perhaps a lucky goal. The lucky side cannot exactly jump for joy in the middle of the field, so what they do is cluster round the man who put the ball through and work their feelings off on him. To add spice to the merry making is the fact that the other side is annoyed at the blunder, or the luck, that let the ball through. The demonstrators are well aware of this, and their congratulations are a subtle form of the old process known as "rubbing it in." This handshaking provides the double satisfaction of relieving your own feelings and "ratling" those of the opponents.

There are times when a team really does feel like congratulating a man on a bit of good play. A little handshaking when the business first started was all to the good, but now the demonstrations have grown to such dimensions that it ought to stop.

Legislation to stop it I do not recommend. I rely on the good sense of footballers to recognise a farce when they see it. The more handshaking there is, the sooner the inevitable reaction against it will come.

It is the custom in all games to say "goot shot" to friends or foes after a good piece of work. After an exceptional performance it is not unknown to shake hands with him. When the habit is carried to excess—especially with a view to rattling the opponents—I think it is time to step in and point out to the offenders that they are hardly playing the game.

If my correspondent gave a word in season to the next man who starts handshaking, I am sure his object will be achieved.

Facts of Rough Play

Coming to rough play some people find any stick good enough to beat a highly popular game like football with, and the people who talk about "hooliganism" when a player gets hurt are just those who have never seen a football match in their lives. Well, I have seen a good few in mine, and played in them, too. My considered opinion is that there exists less "rough play" in football than in any game. There are so many different ways in which a footballer can "act rough." Many of these would never be noticed. So I say that considering the opportunities footballers have the amount of rough play is very little.

Football is a game played with great speed and a lot of dash; people are bound to get run over in it, but running over is rarely done deliberately.

A youngster pulled up for rough work generally makes the excuse—quite honestly—that the opponents started it. It is hard to expect the virile type that plays football to turn the other cheek when he thinks that the opponents began the business but we are making progress. After all, though a lot of dash is essential for victory it is the man who keeps his head and his temper who gets through.

I have emphasized in these articles that rough play affects both parties. Nothing tires you and takes your mind away quicker. The quieter the game played the more energy you have left for the second half. You don't see a sprinter shouting as he does his quarter mile — he knows a better use for his breath.

Save Your Energy

That is what must be impressed on footballers. To hit back is a natural impulse — but the best way to hit back is to save your energy and score an extra goal with it.

An old gentleman once watched a football match. He listened with a puzzled frown until one of the local enthusiasts turned to him and asked: "What's the score?" He answered, "Well, I gather from the remarks of the spectators that the Dirty Players are leading the Rotten Foulers by two goals to one."

If this is to be taken seriously it is a reflection on the spectators—not the players. And as far as my own home crowd is concerned there is no truth in it.

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Notice to Contractors

SEALED TENDERS for the construction of a reinforced concrete grain elevator superstructure, with timber dock-galleries and warehouse, will be received at Ottawa, Ontario, **until Noon of Monday, May 18th, 1925.**

Tenders should be sent in an opaque sealed envelope marked "Tender for Grain Elevator" and addressed to Mr. F. C. T. O'Hara, Deputy Minister, Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa.

A lump sum for the work is desired.

An accepted bank cheque for Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) made payable to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, must accompany each tender, which sum will be forfeited if the party tendering declines to enter into a contract for the work on the terms stated in his tender. The cheques of unsuccessful tenderers will be returned. The cheque of the successful tenderer will be retained as security for the due fulfilment of the contract to be entered into, or cheque may be replaced with equivalent par value of bonds of the Dominion of Canada.

Plans, specifications, and all necessary information regarding the proposed work may be obtained from C. D. Howe & Company, Consulting Engineers, Whalen Building, Port Arthur, Ontario. Deposit of One Hundred Dollars $(100.00) is required for plans and specifications, deposit to be returned on return of plans and specifications in good condition.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

By order,
F. C. T. O'HARA,
Deputy Minister.
Department of Trade and Commerce,
Ottawa, April 9th, 1925.

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And Congoleum *Gold-Seal* Rugs offer an ideal solution to the floor-covering problem in mountain camp, country cottage, or summer home.

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Wherever you see this "child and boat" display in a window you will know that the merchant is an authorized dealer in Congoleum *Gold-Seal* Art-Rugs. Step in and let him show you the latest patterns; for no matter how fine the display in his window, it's only an indication of the variety of designs he carries in stock.

In pattern, Congoleum *Gold-Seal* Art-Rugs offer everything from rich Oriental motifs to dainty floral and tile effects. You'll find it easy to select suitable designs for any room! Though Congoleum Rugs are laid without any kind of fastening, the corners and edges will not curl.

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9x3 ft.	$5.25	9x7½ ft.	$12.00	9x12 ft.	$19.00
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9x6 ft.	9.75	9x10½ ft.	16.50	9x15 ft.	23.70

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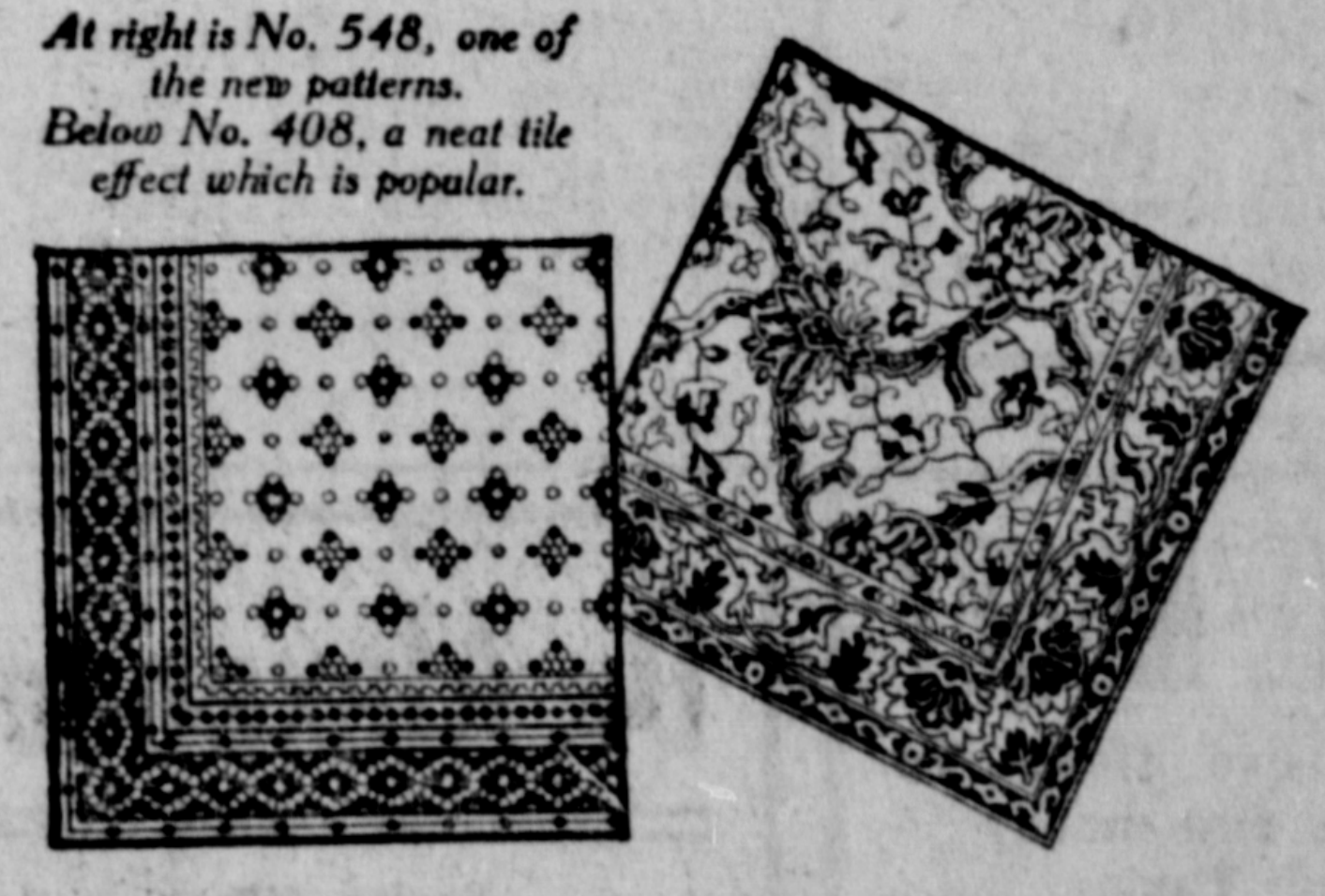

At right is No. 548, one of the new patterns. Below No. 408, a neat tile effect which is popular.

Sport Chat

There is still reason to believe that the three teams entered this year in the Senior Football League are as evenly matched as any that ever competed in past years. The Callies at present have the advantage with their first win while the Sons of England have played a draw and the Vets have also drawn one and lost one. Be it said for the latter, however, that they should be capable of much better play than they have so far shown and it is very likely that the ex-soldiers will yet prove one of the most serious contenders for the year's honors. They have a strong line-up which has not yet had a chance to get on its feet. The Callies and Sons of England also have their share of good soccerists and it is hard to speculate on who will come out on top. Tonight the Callies and Sons of England will try conclusions and a regular Scotland-England battle is expected.

Miss Gertrude Ederle, 18 year old mermaid of the Women's Swimming Association of New York, will undertake to swim the English Channel this summer. This struggle through 20 miles of turbulent water has been contemplated for some time by Miss Ederle, who is an experienced outdoor swimmer and quite at home in rough seas. As a result of competitions in the south last winter she became convinced that she possessed the necessary speed. Apparently unknown up to the summer of 1922, she came into prominence as a long distance swimmer in the international three and a half mile race for the Cay Cup in New York Bay. Then she was but 15 years old. Before that summer had passed, she had captured several national titles and set many world records for distances between 150 yards and 500 meters. Each year Miss Ederle spends four months at the family country place near Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey, and daily covers several miles regardless of weather, so that in every way she is prepared for the coming classic. She intends to keep up her routine until June 17, when she will sail on the Berengaria for England. She will attempt to cross the channel in late July or early August.

REQUEST REFUSED

The Gyro Club contemplate making certain improvements in Section 2 on city park ground, and requested the city council to allow them the use of $295 which they have at the credit of the city. The request was refused last night at the council meeting.

TAXATION PENALTIES MUST STAND COUNCIL ADVISED BY SOLICITOR

City Solicitor Jones reported to the city council last night that under the Municipal Act the penalty clause must be enforced in the payment of taxes. Taxes not paid by August 1 carry a 10 per cent penalty, and those outstanding after November 1 an extra five per cent penalty. The rates bylaw was then accordingly passed, without the proposal advanced last week that the penalties be reduced.

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