

FOR AN ALL AMERICA TEAM.

Choice of the Eleven Best Players of the Season.

In choosing the players who shall constitute an All-America football eleven, it is first necessary for a writer to decide whether he will pick a team consisting of eleven star players, or whether he will choose men who would work together most harmoniously and form a team strong in organization rather than in the merits of the individuals. If such a team, when chosen, were to be matched against any other particular team the latter course would most certainly be preferred. In the present instance, however, this is not the aim in view. But rather it is the purpose of the present writer to choose those men, who, in his opinion, have played the best individual game in their various positions and who, after sufficient practice and combined drilling, would make a strong organization. In this way only is it possible for a football critic to give to the various players of the season their just dues, and to actually name the eleven best.

To begin with the question of ends, the man who first deserves a place is Cabot of Harvard. He was almost unanimously given a position on the All-America team of last year, and during the present season has played, if anything, a stronger game than ever before. His work against Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania was of especial merit. He seemed not only a dead-sure man in defensive work, to stop his opponents runs around the ends, and a most efficient player in the offensive game, but also was ever present to take advantage of an opponent's misplay and capture the ball for his side after a fumble or muff. After such a season's work his fellow-players could in no stronger way express their appreciation of his football knowledge and value than by unanimously electing him to fill the position of captain on the Harvard team next Fall.

The second choice for end is a little disputed between Cochran of Princeton and Bass of Yale. In the opinion of some critics the latter outplayed his opponent at Manhattan field on November 21st, but the present writer is not inclined to take that view. At the opening of the season, in practice and in minor contests, Bass played a game which has not been really equalled by any other ends of the year. But as the season advanced his work gradually deteriorated, so that judging from his play during the season in general he does not deserve to be classed with Cochran. But if one can make the choice upon the standard of what a player might do when at his best, Bass might be the choice. Cochran, though somewhat handicapped by his duties as captain, nevertheless played a very strong game during the entire season, and deserves to be ranked among the best, and this assertion can be fairly made in spite of injuries which partially disabled him at times. Moulton, of Harvard, has also played a very strong game this season and deserves to be mentioned in the present discussion.

CANDIDATES FOR TACKLE.

In considering the candidates for the position of tackle, a disabled captain again commands attention. Murphy, of Yale, was regarded as one of the best tackles on the football field last season and there are many critics who have thought from his work in the games of the past season that he still deserves this distinction, if not to a higher degree. It is unquestionable that in certain games Murphy showed that he could play a better tackle than any other man in the country, but the fact that in the latter part of the season his shoulder prevented him from appearing at his best, must not be forgotten. In the game against Princeton he was outclassed and owing to his injury forced early to retire from the contest. It would therefore not be fair to consider him one of the two stars of the year for this position, though in the estimation of the writer he is the best tackle in the country when in good condition.

Judging from the work actually performed in games, Church, of Princeton deserves first place. He showed his superiority over his opponents both against Harvard and

Yale and his value as a ground gainer and tackler was immeasurable. For the second tackle it is necessary to consider three possibilities, Hillebrand of Princeton, Rodgers of Yale, and Uffenheimer of Pennsylvania. Hillebrand is a new man but nevertheless held his own against Rodgers in the New York game. Although the latter was very strong in breaking through to stop the interference or the opponents' plays, his effectiveness in this direction was not as marked as it might have been, had he more carefully tried to locate the runner and judge of his direction rather than to throw himself at full length upon the ground and trust that the interference might fall over him. Uffenheimer is a player of some experience and in the Harvard game demonstrated his ability to meet attacks. It is to be noticed that in this game very few gains were made through his section of the line and for this fact he certainly deserves much credit. The choice between him and Hillebrand is therefore a hard one to make, but probably the preference lies with the Pennsylvania man.

THE CENTER TRIO.

A writer in the Boston Herald last Sunday picked Wharton and Woodruff, both of Pennsylvania, as the best pair of guards and in the former case the choice cannot be questioned. If the Pennsylvania pair are, however, the best, it seems remarkable that Lafayette should have defeated Pennsylvania and should have shown their superiority in center playing. Rhinehardt is the star guard on the Lafayette eleven, and when he and his neighbors in the line can outplay their Pennsylvania opponents, who are generally considered stronger men, he has demonstrated great football ability. For this reason the choice of Rhinehardt and Wharton as the best guards of the season, seems the fair one.

The same writer in the Boston Herald also has chosen Chamberlin, of Yale, for the position of center. If the only question to be considered is the ability of the man to play this position regardless of his weight and size, this choice is undoubtedly correct. Chamberlin, though a new man at the position, has shown great activity and cleverness in getting into every play, but positively is not big enough or heavy enough to prevent opposing push plays from riding over him. If supported by two guards of sufficient weight, his presence on the team might be licensed, but as a star individual player he cannot be rightly chosen. The two men who have played the strongest games at this position this season are Gailey of Princeton and Shaw of Harvard. Gailey was considered last year to be the best center of the country, but this year in the Harvard game, he as well as his two neighbors in the line, were outplayed by the Harvard trio. Inasmuch as the two Harvard guards, though good men in their positions have not made the reputation of star players, it seems that the merits of this superiority belong to Shaw at center, and the present writer, therefore, would choose this player for the position in question.

AN EASY CHOICE.

About quarter-back there can be no serious discussion. Fincke, of Yale, is undoubtedly the best quarter-back on the football field. He combines the most essential qualifications for the position, and in additions to the ordinary requirements he has considerable weight, and is therefore very effective in interference and tackling. He is a good punter and an absolutely sure man to catch punts when playing back of the line. He is perfectly cool and his passes are always accurate and clean. Smith, of Princeton, is rated by some as a superior man for the position, but in the game against Yale at Manhattan field, and in several other less important games, he has committed the unpardonable fault of fumbling or passing the ball to the wrong man. Because he played upon a winning team and practically directed their plays by giving the signals is no reason for concluding that he is a better man than Fincke, who had to play under adverse circumstances and with less support from all quarters.

It is again a natural thing for superficial critics to pick Kelly and Bannard as the best half backs, influenced

(Continued on sixth page.)

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