

**PRINCETON IMPROVING**

**Well-balanced and much better now than last year.**

[Special Correspondence of YALE ALUMNI WEEKLY]

PRINCETON, Nov. 18, 1899.—As has been usual in past years, there is a great element of uncertainty in predicting the result of Princeton's final and most important game of the season. In addition to a doubt of how some of the men will behave in a big game, there is the element of uncertainty connected with the Yale team. True, Princeton has had the advantage of only having four places left vacant by the graduation of members of last year's team, but a matter of great concern has been such a falling off in the play of several veterans that new and untried men have stepped into their positions.

The men have had the coaching of some of the finest players that Princeton has ever graduated and yet have not until lately shown themselves apt pupils. A great cause of worry here is the lack of good substitutes for almost every position on the team, and a very serious condition indeed will confront Captain Edwards next Saturday, should any of his men go out because of injuries.

**EARLY IMPROVEMENT SLOW.**

From the beginning of the season up to the date of the defeat by Cornell the improvement in general team play was unappreciable. Almost without exception every one of the new candidates put personal interests to the front while relegating general results to the rear. The Cornell game, however, acted in such a manner as to change the entire spirit of the play and bring several more coaches to Princeton to help out the team. Of late a certain degree of unity and confidence has been acquired, and the coaches, considering what may be done in the next week and the fact that Yale will probably come out of the Harvard game in poor condition, have begun to look more hopeful.

Taking everything into consideration, the general points of the team which will meet Yale next Saturday should be about as follows: The line charges well and quickly on offensive play and seems to have overcome the fault of playing too high; when on the defensive there is a general tendency to off-side play, due to the great eagerness of the men. The center trio is one of the heaviest Princeton has ever had and all use their weight to good advantage. The tackles are quick and active men and both play a hard and aggressive game. The ends are good on offense and defense and work especially well under kicks. The back field is practically composed of new men with the exception of fullback, and, as a rule, play a good, consistent game, of which the defense is perhaps better than the offense. They back up the line well, run hard and low, but fail, on end runs, to form the interference quickly and compactly. Taken as a whole the men work well together, help each other out, every man getting into every play. They have at last caught the right spirit and can be estimated at about fifty per cent. better than last year's team, principally because of a finer defense. The only position the occupancy of which is in doubt at present is right half, which lies between Levick and McClave, Ruter and Kafer having quitted the game, the former on account of injuries and the latter because of the objections of his parents. Thus, barring accidents, the team which will meet Yale at New Haven, November 25, will line up as follows: l.e., Palmer; l.t., Pell; l.g., Mills; c. Booth; r.g., Edwards, Captain; r.t., Hillebrand; r.e., Poe; q.b., Hutchinson; l.h.b., McCord; r.h.b., McClave; f.b., Wheeler.

**AN INDIVIDUAL CRITICISM.**

The individual criticism of the men is as follows:

Booth, center, is a veteran with a perfect knowledge of the game, which he uses. He charges well, passes almost faultlessly, but is weak in a broken field. Edwards, right guard and Captain, is not up to last year's form, his increased duties taking, to a certain extent, his attention from his own play to that of his men. By his excellent example he inspires the team with great spirit and determination. His defensive excels his offensive game, as he is prone to off-side play.

Mills, left guard, played first sub. last

year, but has not shown any marked improvement over his last year's form. He is slow to charge and does not follow the ball well.

Hillebrand, right tackle and Captain of the Ninety-Eight team, is a tower of strength this year. He is equally good on blocking kicks and breaking through and upsetting the interference. In addition, he is probably one of the best ground gainers in the country, difficult to down, and a hard and sure tackler.

Pell, left tackle, was also a last year's substitute. He is a trifle light, but nevertheless a strong and nifty player. His style of play resembles Hillebrand's, except in its being less aggressive.

Palmer, left end, weighs only 145 pounds, but is exceedingly quick and speedy. He gets under kicks well and is a sure tackler. His chief fault is nervousness and he is worried too much by the opposing end.

Poe, right end, Palmer's mate last year, like the latter gets well under kicks, but is not as sure a tackler. Another point of resemblance is their defensive play, as both, instead of dodging, attempt to mash the interference, which their light weight renders impossible.

Hutchinson, quarterback, played the latter part of the second half in the game last year. He has improved this Fall, handling kicks well and running them back with great cleverness. His nervousness, however, causes fumbling on the pass and at times his judgment in running the team is not good.

McCord, left half, is new at the position, to which he was moved from tackle. He is a quick starter, runs low and hard; uses his weight well, both on offense and defense, but at times does not stick to the interference.

McClave, right half, is a Freshman, and has only recently been tried on the University. He is light, but heady, a good dodger, and follows the interference well. His chief fault is a lack of knowledge of the game.

Wheeler, fullback, is by no means up to last year's form, as a bad ankle has kept him out of the game for a considerable time. His catching is sure and his running back punts a feature. His kicking is as a rule quick, well timed for the ends and well placed.

Levick, right half, is also a new man and does not show good headwork in either interfering or following interference. He is a slow starter but a good line breaker.

For substitutes there are Losey and Mitchell for center; Dana and Wright for guard; Lloyd and Sheffield for tackle; Lathrope, Little, and Roper for end; Duncan and Burke for quarter; Knight and Beardsley for half, and Mattis for fullback. Of these, none but the substitutes for tackle and end approach the form of the regular men.

Thus, from the above criticism it may be seen that the Princeton team this year is an average one, possibly a little more, and fairly well balanced. Everyone agrees that the team is better than that of last year, puts up a splendid defense, not so good an offense, but should any accidents happen next week Princeton's chances of repeating her last year's defeat of Yale would be materially diminished.

The following are the men who will face Yale on Saturday:

	Wt.	Age.
Poe, right end.....	140	20
Hillebrand, right tackle.....	178	21
Edwards, right guard.....	235	23
Booth, center.....	200	23
Mills, left guard.....	190	20
Pell, left tackle.....	176	18
Palmer, left end.....	134	23
Hutchinson, quarterback.....	138	23
McCord, left half.....	182	19
Reiter, right half.....	165	25
Mattis, fullback.....	176	20

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**President's Reception.**

President and Mrs. Hadley gave their first reception to students of the University, Thursday afternoon, November 16, at their home on Whitney Avenue. To this the first alphabetical half of the Freshman class was invited. A second reception will be given to the remainder of the Class, Thursday, November 23.

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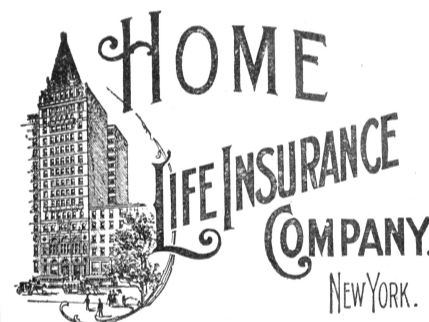
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