I HAVE been a football fan since 1876, when in my Sophomore year I saw Pennsylvania play its first football game. And while I enjoy all forms of college sport today just as much as I did in those early days, I have been refreshing my memory with certain incidents and characters of those formative days, and have put some of them down on paper with the thought that they might interest you tonight.

Princeton was our first opponent in football, and the game was played at Princeton on November 11, 1876. Princeton had been playing football for several years, whereas our boys had hurriedly gotten a team together in answer to the Princeton challenge and had only about two weeks' practice. You youngsters of the 1930 eleven wouldn't recognize the 1876 game as the one you play today. In the first place, each side had twenty men, and they didn't line up as you do now. It didn't make any difference how many touchdowns a team made, because only goals from field counted in the scoring. All the emphasis was placed on kicking. It was real football.

Of Pennsylvania's first team only four men are now living. They are E. W. Clark, the banker; Dr. C. A. Currie, who is practicing medicine in Germantown; Horace H. Lee, who as a student was the first college man to run a half mile in eight seconds; and he was engaged as coach of the baseball team as well.

During the fifty-four years of Pennsylvania's football history we have played a prominent part in the development of the game, and, of course, we have had some wonderful teams. During the 80's our schedules included Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Lafayette, Lehigh, Swarthmore and other nearby institutions. But we didn't win many games until the Athletic Association, which had been a purely undergraduate affair, was reorganized in 1882 under a charter from the state and with alumni in its management. We engaged our first professional coach in 1885 in the person of Frank Dole, who came to us from Yale. Three years later Elwood O. Wagenhurst, who had played the game at Princeton, entered our law school, and he was engaged as coach for the extravagant sum of $275 for the season. Three years later, as I recall, we raised his salary to $600, but to justify it we required him to train the baseball team as well.

We are now beginning to get somewhere in football, but Pennsylvania did not receive wide recognition until after the 1891 season, when a special committee, consisting of John Bell and myself, acting for the Athletic Association, secured the services of George Woodruff, a recent graduate of Yale, where he had played football and rowed on the crew. Mr. Woodruff was then coaching at Penn Charter, and we signed him up for both football and crew at an annual salary of $1,200 and his tuition in the law school. Since I have been making some comparisons of football as played today and forty years ago, I think this over! Our receipts for the football season of 1890 were $5,546.90 and our expenses $5,520.24. So we made $25.66 for a schedule of thirteen games, in which the only games we lost were to Princeton and Yale. What a change to the million-dollar gates of today!

The Genius of Woodruff

George Woodruff, as you older men know, was an inventive genius. He immediately attracted nation-wide attention by the development of the flying interference. It bowled over all opposition, so that the rules committee legislated it out of existence. But Woodruff came right back with the "guards back" play, which made him and his Pennsylvania teams the talk of the country. For some eight years this play was almost unstoppable when executed by such men as Hare, Wharton, Thornton, Wiley Woodruff and other giants of that day. Finally Harvard found a way to break it up, but it was used as the foundation for the Yale "tackles back" play famous until all mass plays were legislated out of the game in 1905.

But I didn't intend to spend all my time talking about the technical side of the game. I want to refer to some of Pennsylvania's great teams, two of them more particularly. While I pride myself on having a youthful outlook, I don't hesitate to say that in my judgment the greatest teams that ever wore the beloved Red and Blue were those of 1894 and 1904. I doubt if any jury of experts would reach an agreement, but if I had to choose between the two teams I think I would pick the 1904 eleven. Both teams won all their games. The 1894 eleven played 13 games and did the 1904 team. But three opponents scored on the '94 team, whereas the only points scored against the 1904 team were from the right foot of Billy Crowell, of Swarthmore, one of our greatest drop-kickers of all time and the peer of all officials.

RECOLLECTIONS OF A FOOTBALL FAN

Graduate of the Class of '78 Having Seen All Our Teams Gives the Laurel Wreath to Unbeaten 1904 Eleven

By DAVIDSON KENNEDY, '78

On the evening of November 29, Mr. Kennedy gave an informal dinner to the members and coaches of the 1930 football team and a few other guests. At the close of the dinner Mr. Kennedy, pausing as the younger brother of "The Old Grad," appeared weekly in the Public Ledger during the football season, entertained his guests with some reminiscences of the early days of Pennsylvania's football. Because of the wide interest of his remarks they are reproduced herewith.—Ten Easton.
Entire Regiment of Midshipmen Thrill Spectators As

You may be interested in a further comparison of the 1894 and 1904 teams. For ends the '94 eleven had Charley Gelbert and "Mitch" Rosenberg. The 1904 team had Wharton Sinkler and Dudley Drake. I think the '94 team had the edge here, particularly in Gelbert, who was one of the greatest ends I have ever seen on any gridiron. Gelbert, by the way, is the father of young Charley Gelbert, of the St. Louis National League team, and one of the heroes of the last world's series.

The '94 tackles were Otto Wagenhurst and Jack Minds, while the tackles in 1904 were Otis Lamson and Thomas Butkiewicz. Wagenhurst and Lamson were about a stand-off, but with Lamson having a little the better of it. I think Minds was better than Butkiewicz. The 1894 team had a better center trio than 1904. Buck Wharton, who as Dr. Charles M. Wharton is now assistant director of Physical Education, and Wiley Woodruff were the guards in 1894. I don't think Pennsylvania ever had a better guard than Wharton. He was almost unstoppable in carrying the ball on guards back plays, but he was also one of the fastest men I have ever seen in getting out on the end to tackle and down the field. Frank Piekarski and Gus Ziegler were the guards ten years later. Piekarski made his reputation by his magnificent work in the Harvard game of that year, and on that occasion he was as good as Wharton.

Torrey the Greatest Center

The 1894 center was Al Bull, while Bob Torrey played the position in 1904 and 1905, captaining his team in both years. While Al Bull was perhaps a better center physically than Torrey, the latter was the brainiest player who ever snapped a ball for us. Al Bull was very deaf, and Carl Williams, who played quarterback on his team, had to pinch his leg as a signal for him to snap the ball. Torrey was the first man in America to play the roving center game, and his defensive play was so remarkable that all first-class centers since then have copied his style. If I had to choose between the two, I think I would pick Torrey, but I am sure no other university ever produced two better centers than this pair.

Trying to decide which team had the better backfield just about floors me. Taking the fullbacks first, the '94 team had George Brooke; the 1904 team had Andy Smith. Andy Smith was perhaps a better defensive man, and whenever a yard was needed he could usually get it. George Brooke also was a good line plunger, a great end-runner, and as an all-around drop-kicker and punter I haven't yet seen his superior. So I think Brooke wins the decision here. The halfbacks in '94 were Win Osgood and Arthur Knipe. I don't think I have ever seen a more elusive open-field runner than Osgood, who lost his life in
the war to free Cuba. Eddie Greene, whose son is a member of this year's Pennsylvania eleven, was one of the '94 halfbacks. He was a good ground-gainer, but as a defensive halfback I have never seen his superior on Franklin Field. Marshall Reynolds was the other halfback in 1904. He was a fair player offensively, but as a punter I have yet to see his superior. He could and did kick with either foot. And he had the uncanny ability to place his kicks within a few feet of where he wished. Many a time he kicked from near the sideline and sent the ball spinning end over end and almost in a straight line for distances of 50 and 60 yards.

The most interesting backfield comparison, of course, is at quarterback. Carl Williams, one of our guests, played that position in 1894, and Vincent Stevenson, whom he coached, played it in 1904. Both men were brainy players, and from this angle I wouldn't know which man to pick. But I feel sure Dr. Williams won't find fault with me if I express the opinion that in his combination of field general, ball-carrier and safety man, the pupil improved slightly upon his teacher. As a field general "Stevie" was a driver and he could size up the plays of the opposition with unerring skill. There was no coaching from the bench while he was running the team. And how he could run with the ball! He made the hurdling of would-be tacklers a fine art, and many of his long runs, particularly in the Harvard game of 1904, were made possible by leaping completely over the oncoming tacklers. He was a small man, but he possessed a wonderful change of pace, and I don't think he knew what fear was.

I don't know just how these two teams compare on the scales, but I think if I were the coach I would rather have the 1904 eleven.

Of course, we have had many other great teams, and they seem to have run in ten-year cycles. I remember particularly Rea McGraw's team of 1924, which was unbeaten during its regular season, although losing to California in a post-season game played on New Year's Day, 1925. Rea McGraw was one of the greatest backs we ever had. In fact, I don't recall any player who ever equaled his record of not missing a single punt while playing the safety role.

During the period I have covered Pennsylvania has had many players on the various All-American elevens. I never believed in such teams, even when they were picked principally from the "Big Four" of Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Pennsylvania. No one man could ever see all the best men in action, and newspaper publicity then, as now, had much to do with the selections. Today, with such wonderful teams in all parts of the country, I think that such teams are perfectly foolish
and impossible. For my own satisfaction I have made out a list of some of Pennsylvania’s outstanding players in the various positions. I have seen them all in action, but the order in which I read them has nothing to do with the rating I would give them.

Ends—Gelbert, By Dickson, Charley Schoff, Sam Boyle, Hunter Scarlett, Izzie Levine (who died the other day), and Paul Riblett.


Guards—Truxtun Hare, whom Walter Camp picked for his All-American team four years in succession; Joe McCracken, Frank Piekarski, Buck Wharton, Henry Thornton and Bill Coleman.


Quarterbacks—Carl Williams and Vincent Stevenson.


Fullbacks—George Brooke, Harry Thayer, of that family which has given so many wonderful athletes to Pennsylvania; Andy Smith, Roy Mercer and Bill Hollenback.

I know I have left out many distinguished players, but these few will suffice to show how many brilliant players Pennsylvania has given to American football. This is the heritage you men of 1930 have to inspire you.

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**Athletic Calendar for January**

**Saturday, January 3**

- Varsity Basketball—Yale (League Game), home, 8:30 P.M.
- J. V. Basketball—Penn A. C., home, 7:30 P.M.

**Wednesday, January 7**

- Varsity Basketball—Rutgers, home, 8:30 P.M.
- Freshman Basketball—West Philadelphia Catholic H. S., home, 7:30 P.M.

**Saturday, January 10**

- Varsity Basketball—Dartmouth (League Game), home, 8:30 P.M.
- Freshman Basketball—Calvert Hall, home, 7:30 P.M.
- Varsity Swimming—Yale, away.
- Varsity Fencing—Alumni, home.
- Varsity Wrestling—Ursinus, home, 3:00 P.M.

**Saturday, January 17**

- Varsity Basketball—Notre Dame, home, 8:30 P.M.
- Freshman Basketball—Roman Catholic H. S., home, 7:30 P.M.
- Varsity Swimming—Yale, away.
- Freshman Swimming—Yale Fresh, away.
- Varsity Wrestling—Indiana, home, 3:00 P.M.

**Tuesday, January 20**

- Varsity Basketball—Yale (League Game), away.
- Varsity Fencing—Alumni, home.
- Varsity Wrestling—Ursinus, home, 3:00 P.M.

**Saturday, January 24**

- Varsity Basketball—Navy, home, 8:30 P.M.
- J. V. Basketball—Pierce School, home, 7:30 P.M.
- Varsity Swimming—Brown, away.
- Varsity Fencing—Alumni, home.
- Varsity Wrestling—Ursinus, home, 3:00 P.M.

**Saturday, January 31**

- Varsity Basketball—Syracuse, home, 8:30 P.M.
- Freshman Basketball—Syracuse Freshmen, home, 7:30 P.M.