

HAUGHTON INFLUENCED FOOTBALL AND YOUTH

Famous Coach Was a Power for Clean Sport—His Boyhood on Staten Island—His Career at Groton, Harvard, Cornell and Columbia

By PARKE H. DAVIS.

NATURE now and then gives to one of her favorites among men a genius to develop extraordinarily an institution which the world had previously regarded as having reached its maximum limit of evolution. Such a man was Percy Duncan Haughton.

Before his advent as head coach at Harvard football men had grown to regard the Yale, the Princeton, the Minnesota and the Chicago systems of tactics and strategy as the boundaries beyond which there was no ultima thule of football. It was believed that the sport had reached a stage in which material and execution were the only remaining unstandardized factors in the game. Within the space of two years thereafter, however, the football world was conscious of the presence of a radically different system, which had taken its name after its inventor, the "Haughton system," and which was vying with the existing schools of tactics not only for equality but actually for supremacy.

The football world also was conscious that a novel personality was at the head of Harvard's football coaching staff. The public had long been accustomed to the type of coach modeled after the general staff of the late German Army—skillful, imperious, aggressive, pugacious, dominating, noisily efficient. In Haughton, however, they saw a coach who was quiet, who always was the gentleman, who ruled by suggestion rather than by commands, whose influence with his players rested upon their confidence in his profound knowledge of his art and who was more efficient than the older type.

In the beginning there were a few intimates, so fortunate as to hear him voice his theories, who realized that here was a coach of broad vision. He could perceive the great power he wielded indirectly among Harvard's student body, because in teaching and inspiring football men in the winning qualities of football play he also was teaching and inspiring everybody with the winning qualities of life, for the two are identical.

Bettered the Game.

Percy Haughton filled every position in intercollegiate football. In his undergraduate days he was a player of singular skill, versatility and renown; in his graduate days he became the foremost coach of his period, resourceful and constructive, with a transcendental talent for leadership. As one of the rulemakers in years of revolution and reform he organized and incorporated into the playing code many of the sport's most wholesome and popular features. His specific services in football were practical and permanently effective, and rivaling these in force for good in years to come are the morals and manners which his personality impressed upon players and spectators.

Haughton was born on Staten Island, July 11, 1876. His innate fondness for outdoor sports found there a conducive environment. The Staten Island Academy, to which he went to school, supplied him with worthy companions and competitors, and there in his schoolboy games he fashioned the central core of the prowess that in later years on greater fields was destined to win unparalleled victories. And there among the teachers of that academy and among the schoolboy leaders of its sports began his code of athletic chivalry that similarly was destined to make him a power in contributing to the formation of the ideal character of youthful America.

His boyhood playmates, now grown to manhood, have talked into the tradition of Staten Island his youthful skill and strength as a cross-country runner at here and hounds, as a football and baseball player, as the shifty wielder of a tennis racket, as a boxer, a wrestler and a swimmer.

At Groton and Harvard.

When Haughton entered Groton School in Massachusetts in 1891 his physical equipment as an athlete immediately won a place on the teams, and his inflexible attitude on questions of athletic ethics instantly made him a leader in the general life of the school. Those were the days when football coaches, obsessed with a zeal to win, were laying down the dictum that "foul is fair provided you get out caught," and were teaching their charges stealthily to hold their opponents, to play offside, to block base runners, to knock the ball from the first

baseman's hands, and to cut second base on three-base hits and home runs.

Young Haughton rebelled at coaching such as this and formulated as his personal maxim, "Strive personally to excel, collectively to win, and all obey the rules."

Having played four years on the teams of Groton School, Haughton matriculated at Harvard in the Autumn of 1895. It was a testing time for the metal of an athlete. In the preceding Fall Harvard and Yale had waged a football battle at Hampden Park in Springfield with such spirit and vim that their relations upon the gridiron became severed and so remained until 1897.

Questions of rules of play, eligibility of players and ethics of sportsmanship became so sharply divided and so acutely and acrimoniously debated that Harvard, Pennsylvania, Princeton and Yale, the members of football's supreme legislature and tribunal in that period, divided, Harvard and Pennsylvania forming a separate legislative body with a separate code of rules, Princeton and Yale forming another. The public, resenting many of the practices of the game, threatened the sport with extinction.

The lessons of this distressing period made a deep impression upon Haughton. Years afterward he and the writer were members of the Football Rules Committee. It was 1910. Football again had been haled by public opinion into the dock and was on trial. The committee faced many suggestions for reform and the debates were fierce and furious. Seven sessions of the committee were necessary that year to revise the code, and at one of these the committee almost broke in two over the question of retaining or abolishing the forward pass.

Haughton's Foresight.

At the height of the bitterness engendered by the debate Haughton calmly arose and softly said: "Gentlemen, I was a player at Harvard during the revolution in 1895 and 1896, and I remember the revolution of 1904. I have learned, therefore, that the only safe guide to action for this committee is a determination to produce a game that is absolutely safe and enjoyable to the players and interesting to the spectators, with defeat of no importance and victory even less. If this committee treats the subject of the forward pass in that light, it should agree within an hour."

And it did.

In the bitter turmoil of 1895 to 1896 over rules and ethics Harvard and Yale did not meet upon the gridiron, but Harvard and Princeton temporarily resumed relations in football after a barren interval of five years. In the first of these two years Haughton was a member of the eleven. In the struggle between Harvard and Princeton the next year, 1896, on Soldier's Field at Cambridge, he was a substitute for tackle or end; but the fortunes of the fray did not call him into action. The year 1897 found him a regular fixture, available either for tackle or for fullback.

His skill as a long-distance punter and as an accurate drop kicker had won for him the distinction of being the foremost fullback in the cohorts in crimson. In that position he played both Pennsylvania and Yale, and played brilliantly, carrying the ball or booting his mighty spirals. Against Pennsylvania he had to match punts against the superb John Minds, and against Yale his kicking powers came into rivalry with M. L. McBride, but he equaled both. In his final year, 1898, we find him in the line-ups, playing tackle at times, at others fullback, and in both positions doing the punting and field goal kicking for Harvard.

Throughout these stirring years he had been playing baseball with equal brilliancy, in his senior year acting as captain of the team. In 1898 he aided in beating Yale in both football and baseball.

His Start as a Coach.

Such was the preliminary education and training that Percy Haughton received to equip him for the central service he was destined to render to American sport. The opportunity soon came. This was an invitation from Cornell to assume the position as head coach of its football squad. The opportunity to an ordinary football man would not have been inviting. Pennsylvania in that period was defeating Cornell almost every year, the material as a whole was mediocre, and a victorious career for Haughton was apparently impos-

sible. Courageously, however, he accepted the invitation. Twice again in his career he cheerfully chose the apparently impossible when he accepted similar positions, at Harvard and at Columbia, under similar circumstances.

Now began the great work of this great American. Studying his situation, he discerned that the position of head coach in a college or university is a post far more than that of a mere teacher of football. He perceived that the sport of football discharged a highly educational function in the building of the character of the entire student body, and that the personality of the coach in the imagination of an undergraduate exerted a powerful influence upon that young man.

He also discerned that the characteristics that make a successful football player are the same characteristics that make a successful business or professional man—profound knowledge of the technique of a subject. Initiative, the ability to think quickly and correctly, courage, and a strong healthy body. As to the game itself, he saw that its tactics and strategy were susceptible of enormous development along scientific lines, and that many of its details, which other coaches had neglected as unimportant or subsidiary, were capable of being made prime factors of success.

With the intensity and fixity of purpose that characterized him he took up the practical coaching of the Cornell squad. Almost immediately Cornell's victories began to multiply in numbers and magnitude. Among these were two successive triumphs over Princeton.

His Work at Cambridge.

In 1908 football at Harvard required a complete reorganization. Six successive defeats by Yale called for heroic relief. The authorities summoned Haughton. He responded, and that Autumn stepped out upon the field at Cambridge as Harvard's head coach.

That very Fall Harvard, through a goal from the field by Victor P. Kennard, defeated Yale. A loss and a tie ensued in 1909 to 1910, and then Haughton sent Harvard into a long series of unbroken victories lasting until 1916. During these years he accomplished an enormous development in tactics and strategy that revolutionized the game. He produced football elevens that were the most perfect and powerful machines ever coordinated in the East, and he trained individual stars—Mahan, Brickley, Hardwick, Fisher, Casey, Trumbull and others—who take rank with the greatest players of all time.

During this period Harvard participated in eighty-three games, winning seventy-one, losing seven and tying in five. In those victories were five over Yale and five over Princeton.

There is nothing secret or mysterious about Haughton's football system. Harvard's adversaries long ago wrested out every detail. The Haughton system is based upon an open concentration of strength in the line at the striking point, accomplished by arraying both guards on the same side of the centre, thus producing the "unbalanced" line. This arrangement discards the element of surprise in the line and depends wholly upon power.

To regain the loss of the element of surprise at the point of attack, Haughton devised a highly deceptive system of back field feints and concealments of the ball. Harvard interference at times went one way and the runner went another. The backs crossed worked delayed, double, triple and lateral passes and employed every device possible for confusing opponents as to the location of the ball and the real direction of the attack.

Merit was the sole basis of selection. Hollowell or Mahan, Back Bay or Brintree, name or social station made no difference to Haughton.

Called to Columbia.

Eventually he gave up coaching Harvard and soon after went off to real war, serving in France. Upon his return he took up business. It was not long, however, before the hard plight of Columbia University, once a great football power, appealed to him, and in his courageous heart came the old urge to attempt the seemingly impossible, the restoration of Columbia to prominence in football, even as he had raised Cornell and Harvard. This feat he performed, but last week, before Columbia met Cornell, he died.

In Westminster Abbey is a tablet to the architect of the building, Sir Christopher Wren. Engraven upon it are the impressive words, "If you seek his monument, look about you." So will it be with Percy Duncan Haughton, the rugged, stirring game, which he helped to create, will wage on. The mighty "wheel shift" he devised will swing the players into position. The great moral forces which he set in motion will continue to mold characters and personalities.

These features of the game and many others will be memorials to Percy Haughton.

THE LOCUST AT WORK



Courtesy Department of Agriculture.

FOR HUSBAND WHO KEEPS POLITICS IN HIS OWN NAME

IS it possible to "convert" the men who would keep politics in their own names? Is there anything to be done for the women whose husbands do not want them to vote?

This new political problem did not crop out four years ago to any great extent, because all women were not enfranchised by constitutional amendment until a few weeks before the Presidential election.

"We are receiving many letters at National Headquarters in Washington from women in all parts of the United States who tell us their troubles and ask our advice," said Mrs. Halsey W. Wilson, director of education for the Democratic National Committee, and director of the Victory Vote Drive. Associated with Mrs. Wilson is Mrs. Julia Davis Adams, daughter of John W. Davis, who has returned to New York from her temporary home in Copenhagen to assist wherever she can in the campaign for her father's election.

"So far as in us lies, we answer each woman's letter, because voting is just about as personal and private a thing as praying," said Mrs. Wilson. "Here is a typical letter. It sometimes seems to us that husbands have been holding a caucus, so uniform are the women's questions. I am (blank) years old, married and I want to vote, but my husband says he will do the voting for the family, that women will only mess up things. What shall I do? I don't want to have a row about it." And sometimes something very private is added.

"This is what I say to these women: Read the papers, especially the editorial pages; go to meetings, inform yourself

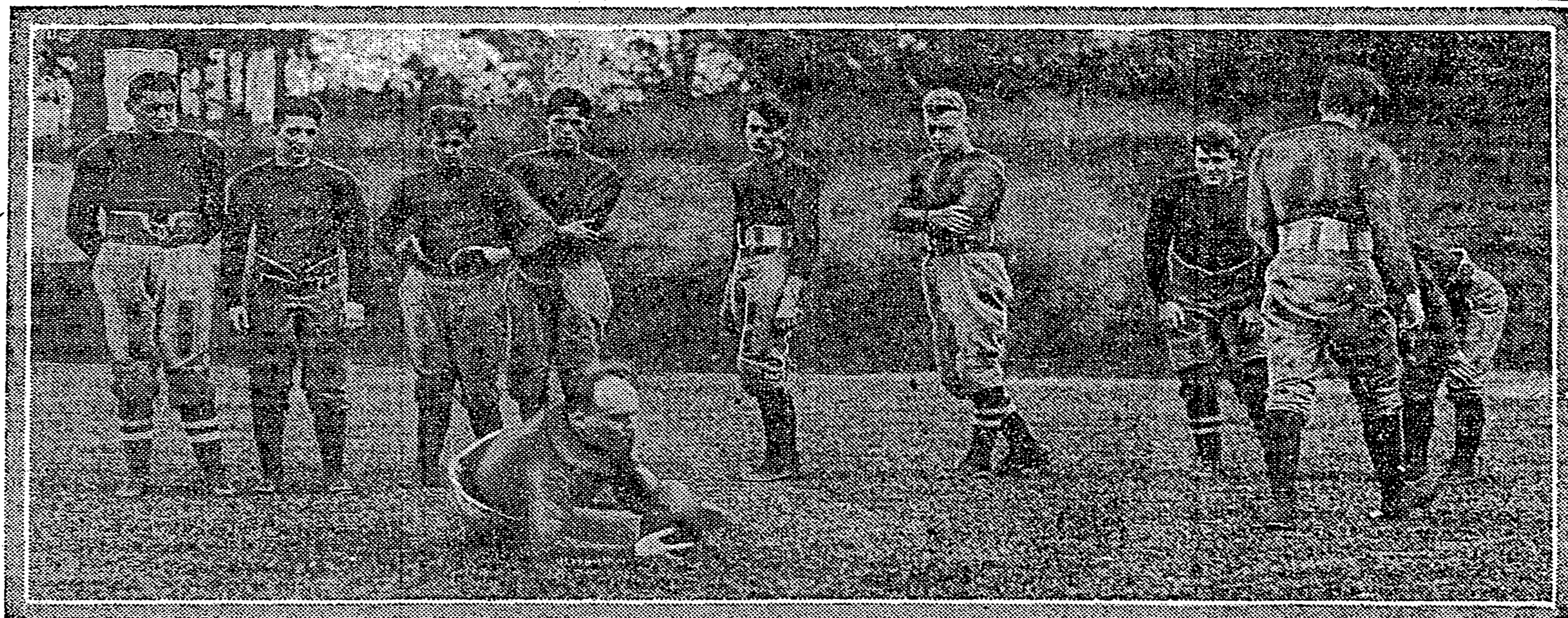
in every possible way. If the political parties have headquarters in your city, visit them, obtain printed matter and come into contact with women who are interested in political questions. Talk politics with your husband. If he says that woman's place is in the home or orders you to shut up, ask him how he is going to vote and why. The chances are he will end by telling you that he will vote a certain ticket because the other party is rotten, and he will try to convert you to his way of thinking. In answer to that threadbare "woman's place is in the home," ask him how long business could run if all the women stayed at home some day. Ask him who would typewrite the letters, operate the switchboards, serve his food in restaurants, nurse the sick in hospitals and teach children in school.

"A sore point with such men is this question: 'Do you want your neighbor's wife to have something to say about government while your wife stays at home—by your orders?'"

"Men are lambs, but sometimes they are a bit inconsistent," continued Mrs. Wilson. "Men prize the privilege of having a voice in matters protecting their business. In most households, husbands and wives are partners, their business interests are the same. Why should they not have common interest in the Government?"

"To the nearly twelve millions in gainful occupations add the women in the home who go to business every day—the business of housekeeping and homemaking—and you have a total of more than twenty millions of women eligible to vote."

HAUGHTON COACHING THE COLUMBIA TEAM



He Is Giving Backfield Candidates Their First Instructions.

Photo by Curtis & Attiano.