

CLOSE RACE FOR BIG FOUR CROWN SEEMS PROBABLE

Tigers, With Heavy Line, and
Argos, With Turville,
Picked to Lead

FORWARD PASS CRUX

Interprovincial Coaches Are
Handling New Play Gingly
in Pre-season
Practice

By JACK HAMBLETON,
(Canadian Press Staff Writer.)

Toronto, September 20. — The football pot is boiling. With exhibition games already ticked away and one or two more to come, coaches in the interprovincial line-up are hearing down on the candidates for the four teams in the loop, and when October 10 rolls around all should be ready. And this far away, choosing the winner seems a hopeless task.

The crux of the situation rests on the forward pass this year. Just what can be done about that spectacular flip is the question. Canadian players as a general rule have thrown the ball around in lateral passes, but this business of reaching far down the field and grabbing the ball in mid-air, while perhaps five or six tuckers are waiting is a different thing again. There is considerable doubt, for instance, whether the players can safely grasp the slippery ball and hold it after they have their hands on it. Theoretically, this should offer little difficulty, after all, many Canadian backfield men catch objection points and run them back. And, say the coaches, if a backfield man can be trained to do that, why not every man on the team?

All agree that the pass is a spectacular feature of the game. Many hard-fought games are bound to be won with the aerial attack, while just as many probably will be lost by fumbling. It looks like a fifty-fifty proposition.

MENTORS WATCH PROGRESS.
Pre-season training is well under way. And in just about every case coaches are specializing on the forward flip—but not too much. They figure, perhaps rightly, that for some time opposition mentors will watch the progress of the pass, and there will still be the handling line attacks and the kicking to fall back on when a team is handicapped.

Hamilton Tigers, last year's loop champions, seem to be well equipped. Much of the heavy line which carried them to the Dominion championship in 1929 and a successful tour of the West in 1930 remains, and in addition there are numerous new candidates for berths on the squad. Hamilton as usual is strong behind the Tigers and great things are predicted for them this year. Among others of last year's squad they have Timmie Drennan, Cox Wright, Roadway, Zvonkin, Fear, Spurgeon, Gibb, Langway and young Jack Tierney, whose booming was a feature last year. In addition, Joe Murphy, a former Providence, B.I., husky, has been out regularly, and he looks very well.

Toronto Argonauts are also well supplied with players this year. Frank Turville, whose booming last year was a feature of every game, is in uniform again. Don Robinson, a former American college player, was also very welcome. He is an expert at the forward pass and his long hurling has featured the Argo practices. They have also signed Alex Carrick, who formerly starred with Art Bodder on Toronto Varsity's second line. Then, of course, there is Ted Morris, Ben McNicol and a dozen or more who could take a stellar position on any big-time team. The fight this year certainly looks to be the usual Argo-Tiger battle.

WHEELERS HIGHLY RATED.
But despite the apparent superiority of Tigers and Argonauts, Montreal A.A. must be considered. Their decisive defeat of Halcyon Beach, Dominion champions, by 18-0 in an exhibition bill at Montreal Saturday is as good an indication of their strength as any. The Winnipeg Wheelers have a strong trick squad this year, and their speed should be an important factor in forward passing.

In Percy, Whites and Whitey they have a smart backfield, while their line leaves nothing much to be desired. They kept Huck Welch in reserve Saturday, and the former Hamilton punter seemed to be as good as ever when he did drive into action. Stevens, who formerly forward-passed at Syracuse, is a mighty handy man on the line-up, and Saturday he performed perfectly. The team is very well supplied with size.

Ottawa is another unknown quantity. The Senators haven't done very well in the past two or three years, but under Coach Dave McCann have shown a spirit that had been lacking. The same Dave is a wily bird on the bench, and he may

show the opposing coaches a trick or two before the season ends. Clair Foster has developed a long accurate pass that may help the team a lot. Ogilvie's kicking has stood out in practice. Dave Harding, formerly of Camp Borden, is better than ever. Hartwick, Penney and Loebner are in there, while many of the younger candidates will develop with further practice.

But Ottawa isn't worrying a great deal about this year's chances. They completely overhauled their squad last year with an eye to the future. Whether the "future" will be this year means little. Sooner or later, McCann figures, his younger players will have developed into cogs in the well-co-ordinated machine which means football championships.

Generally, there is an atmosphere of confidence prevailing. Ottawa means Montreal on October 14, while Argos will travel to Hamilton on the same date. Until those test-days, enthusiasts will be forced to wait and hope for no one better than a team in capable of until at least the first game of the season.

RED FOOTBALLERS GET FUNDAMENTALS

Shaughnessy Instructs Squad
of 35 in Line Play in
Short Practice

Yesterday afternoon's late down-pour chased the McGill footballers from the field of Molson Stadium rather earlier than usual but before the storm started, Coach Shaughnessy assisted by Warren Stevens put his squad of 35 through a thorough practice. No scrimmaging was attempted, the McGill mentor being a firm believer that the first job for a coach is to instill in his charges in the fundamentals of the game before throwing them into actual scrimmaging drills. Formations and scrimmages will probably be inaugurated Thursday. Until that time McGill football candidates can look for plenty of work on the tackling dummy, open field off-plays and general instruction on line play. Shaughnessy handled the linemen yesterday and Stevens coached the backfield men.

Coach Wilson Melles had the freshman squad to hand and the Shaughnessy paid most attention to conditioning and the rudiments of football. Melles had about 25 under his direction and reported that some very promising material is to be found in the ranks of the newcomers. Unfortunately because of the freshman rule none of it can be used to build McGill's senior team of 1931.

Practically everyone will get into action Saturday's game with the Argos. Shaughnessy said last night. There are enough seniors at Molson field house for all who report and the game will simply be a try-out for all the candidates.

ERNIE SCHAAF TO MEET GRIFFITHS

To Fight Ten Rounds at Chicago Tomorrow — Loughran Matched With Sekyra

(By The Associated Press.)
New York, September 21.—Ernie Schaaf, whose powerful punching has been making rival eastern heavyweights assume horizontal attitudes with dispatch, travels west this week to see what he can do with one Gerald Ambrose (Trudy) Griffiths.

Schaaf, with a string of ten successive knockouts behind him, including two over Jimmy Maloney and one over Victorio Campolo, battles Griffiths in a ten-rounder at the Chicago Stadium Wednesday night. Griffiths himself was regarded highly as a coming heavy-weight but developed into a highly inconsistent performer after Jimmy Broadbuck knocked him out.

Another heavyweight contender, Tommy Loughran, Philadelphia veteran, tackles Joe Sekyra, Dayton, O., trial horse in the two-round feature bout at the Queenborough Stadium here tomorrow night. Loughran's string of victories is just as impressive as Schaaf's, but Tommy has won his triumphs by his boxing skill. Sekyra surprised the boys by handling the Dutch youngster, Charley Jordan, a bad beating in a recent bout here. Retaliation will appear on tomorrow night's card, showing Dick Oaken, of Germany, Stanley Kroske, Jersey City slugger, battles Marty Gallagher, of Washington, in the first ten.

Out on the west coast, Max Baer, Oakland's heavyweight ace, meets Jack Van Noy, of Los Angeles, at Oakland Wednesday.

Christopher (Doc) Battalino, of Hartford, Conn., world's feather-weight champion, will encounter Bushy Graham, Utica, N.Y., star, in ten-round non-title affair at Cincinnati Thursday.

According to the milkman—don't cry over spilt milk. There is enough water in it already.