

Team Fights Team

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On a cool brisk Saturday afternoon in the late fall of the year, thousands sit watching two teams warming up to engage in a fierce battle scheduled to be raged long before by the coaches of the opposing teams. They have been practicing, putting themselves into condition for months, maybe years, in order to be prepared to defeat any team which they come up against. Later in the dressing room the coaches try to rouse their tempers by speaking strongly against their opponents. After making their blood boil with hate, he reminds them not to lose their heads because strategy, not temper alone, will win the game for them. The boys come running out upon the field on which they will fight, lining up in front of the goal they are to defend for their Alma Mater. The student body sings victory songs and cheers the boys on in order to raise their morale, their spirit, and their confidence toward defeating the enemy who would have the greatest pleasure in crossing their goal, putting the game into their own advantage.

Finally the game is ready to begin, and the ball is kicked deep into the opponents territory, but is caught and returned as quickly as possible until the carrier is knocked down hard by a vicious tackle of the charging defensive team. The fight has begun. The offensive team forms a strong line with three or four men behind to call signals and to carry the ball. The defensive team, likewise, builds for itself a strong wall to stop the offensive attack with a few men to back them up in case their wall breaks.

Tackling, blocking, driving, kicking, slugging — these are the causes of injuries, but injuries are nothing to become frantic

about as long as there aren't too many; for every team has its reserves anxious to get a "crack" at the foe.

There are several ways of attacking the defensive team: through their line, around their line, or over their line. The most popular and, consequently, the most performed is attacking through the line with all the power centered at the point of attack. If the offense has perfect team work, coordination, and power, this is the most effective. Once in awhile, in order to "cross" their opponents up, they run around the end. When in desperate need of ground, attacking by air is the most effective. Forward passes, if completed, will gain more ground at a clip than any other method, generally speaking.

What have you been reading about? It sounds very much like a football game, doesn't it? Maybe it is, and again maybe it isn't. I could call it something else by using a little imagination — war. War is a game; team fights team. Soldiers at war go through the same procedure that those boys on that football-field go through. Both condition themselves; both receive cheers from those whom they fight for; both receive "pep talks" from their officers; both have reserves; both use a line for their formation backed with capable officers to encourage them on; both fight with everything they have, striving for a common goal behind the enemy's line; both fight in the air as well as on the ground. The only difference is that one is performed a little more cruelly than the other; the cause of one is a little more unjust than the other; the results of one are a little more horrible than the other.