DECLINED GAME

Championship Not in Dispute-Baylor Declined at One Time.

Contrary to announcements from Waco no post-season football game between Baylor and the A. & M. team will be played.

Baylor has tried for several days to get A. & M. to play a post-season game, but her requests have been turned down. Monday the Baylor manager asked Mr. Moore by telegram to agree to a post-season game to settle disputed championship. The Bayregarding the championship.

lege.

The team has gone out of training | Every pass must be accurate, for and the players are getting down to with the open game now played a hard school work. The suits have fumble seldom fails to result in the been put away till next fall, and it loss of the ball for the fumbling side. is not the intention of the football With the development of kickers, the management to make any other foot- loss of the ball means the loss of from ball engagements for this season.

CENTER GREAT FACTOR.

New Rules Make Him Most Import ant Member of the Team.

One man more than any other on the fottball team has been brought into the limelight by the new code of hand the ball to the runner, or, rather rules, the center looming up as the most prominent offensive and defensive player on the eleven.

Quickness of body and brain must be combined with weight and courage for the ideal center this year, and teams which have been weak in the pivotal position have found to their cost that without a strong man at this position the defense is greatly weakened, while offensive plays lose much of their effect. Every team in the country which has done good work this season will be found to have a veteran center and a man whose quickness in thinking and accuracy in playing his position have proved important in the result of games.

In former years coaches used to search high and low for mountains the ball and on nearly every formaof beef and strength to play the cen- tion the man eligible to receive the ter position, but since 1906, when the ball takes a different station. It is first changes were made in the gridiron game, tutors have been searching for fast, rangy men. The dif- spot twice in the same game. Most ference between the centers of now of his passes are radically different and years ago may be seen by glanc- from their predecessors, and anyone ing over the pages of any old foot- who has tried passing the ball to a ball guide of ten years back and com- different spot every attempt soon paring the pictures of the center with realizes the difficulty of obtaining acthose of last season and this season. curacy. In addition to this, in order

Centers this season have more to do with the success of their respective teams than any other player on the eleven, declare some critics, and this does not seem too broad a statement to make. Not only must the center be a good man on defense, but on offense he must carry in his head complicated signals and formations, and, in addition to the difficulty of playing a line position, must watch his own backs carefully to avoid making a poor pass. With speed, one of the prime requisites of the game his passes must be quick and snappy, but withal accurate.

Under the rule permitting the direct pass from the center to the runner, the center, instead of passing to the quarter back directly behind him, lor manager received the reply that he must be able to shoot the ball back had a chance to play A. & M. and re- to his teammates at unexpected angles fused it, and that there is no dispute shooting it to a different man nearly every play. In addition to the diffi-Baylor declined to contract with culty of placing his passes accurate-Manager Moore last spring when he ly to standing men, he meets a furwas making up his schedule. The ther difficulty in passing the ball to Baylor manager kept the contract two a man who already has started his or three weeks and returned it, run. In one out of every three plays saying that Baylor did not want a the man who receives the ball from game with the Farmers. The open the snapper-back is already on the date was arranged with another col- run, making it extremely difficult for the center to make accurate passes.

> forty to fifty yards and a chance to score. The center, therefore, must be careful to make every pass accurate so there is no danger of the ball going to the opposing side on a fumble. In this particular the center takes the place, in a measure, of the quarter backs of the old game. Old time quarter backs were coached to to slam it into his arms. The throw ing of the ball was abandoned several years ago because it was found the time gained by the throw was more than offset by the danger of umbling on the play.

> Obviously the center can not put the ball into the runner's arms as the old quarter back used to do, but he must make his passes hard and true, so as to minimize the possibilities of mistakes in handling the ball by the runner. The center, then, has to pass the ball not only accurately, but fast and strong.

> With a different pass called for by every signal, the difficulty of accurate passes becomes greater. On nearly every play a different man must take seldom, therefore, that the center passes the ball to exactly the same

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to aid the success of trick plays, he can not indicate, by his movements the direction and style of play and permit the defense to meet it before fairly was started.

In order to know what pass is required the center must be as well, if not better, versed in the signals and formations as any other man on the team. He must grasp the signals instantly, without so much as a sign f the object and direction of the play. He must also be able to steady his back field and to prevent any mistakes or costly fumbles through misinterpretation of the signal.

On defense of his position is equally as important. Most coaches this eason are playing a "loose" center. that is, on defense, the center is played back of the line of scrimmage, in a place usually filled by the defensive full back, when the five-yard and mass clay rules were in force. In going back to this position the center is in no way relieved of responsibility for his own position, and must fill it if a play is directed against it. His duty back of the line is to "size up" the plays of the offense and assist his teammates to meet them. Much had been said regarding the player occupying the position, and nothing need be repeated here. The center, therefore, must combine with his offensive qualifications the ability to "size up" plays on the defense and mect them properly.-Dallas News.

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