

# Where The West Got The Jump

*In Addition To Developing Strong Defense and Good Running Game, Has Built Up Forward Pass*

By Grantland Rice

**W**ESTERN football teams this past season came to their greatest height, for the first time taking a definite anchorage above the standard of the East.

There have been arguments back and forth before this with western claims advanced.

But this is the first, time in football history that even the majority of eastern critics admit beyond any vast argument that the West has moved into the lead.

Why is this? In the first place the West was the first section to go in thoroughly for the development of the forward pass.

With its preliminary work under way the West failed to pay as much attention to defensive play as the East did. But this last season the West corrected most faults along this line with the result that western defensive strength was fully upon a par with the best in the East.

Chicago proved this against Princeton when the Tigers made but three first downs. Notre Dame proved it against West Point when the Army made but two first downs.

## *Leads in Attack*

**N**OTRE DAME this season showed the East what a baffling, bewildering play the forward pass was when correctly used.

With Mohardt of Notre Dame passing to Kiley even the best of defensive systems seemed to be up in the air, largely because Mohardt could throw the ball to within a foot or two of any given space and Kiley at top speed could take the ball out of the air, over his shoulder or to either side.

Notre Dame was the first team we know of to build its attack around a forward passing game, rather than use a forward passing game as a mere aid to the running game.

Someone has called the Notre Dame attack "glorified basketball." This may be true. But if any defense drops back or scatters to break up the passing game this defense will find that in Mohardt, Wynne and others that Rockne's team has a running game of great speed and power.

As Notre Dame was beaten by Iowa it is easy to see that there were other fine teams in the west.

California has a magnificent machine and in addition to Iowa and Notre Dame, Chicago, Ohio State, Wisconsin and Michigan were all strong with Illinois coming back near the finish with a whirlwind rush. Nebraska has still another powerful machine

that cannot be overlooked.

The East certainly has no seven teams to match Iowa, Notre Dame, California, Nebraska, Chicago, Ohio State and either Wisconsin or Michigan.

Lafayette had a big, powerful line and at least two backfield stars in Gazella and Brunner.

## *Best Backs*

**G**REAT backs ranged in vast profusion this year. Among the greatest must be rated Killinger of Penn State; Aldrich of Yale; Owen of Harvard; Devine of Iowa; McMillan of Centre; Barron and Harlan of Georgia Tech; Robertson of Dartmouth; Davies of Pittsburgh, in fact an almost endless line of stars.

The best quarterbacks in the country were Killinger of Penn State; Devine of Iowa; McMillan of Centre, and Buell of Harvard, the latter being one of the greatest field generals of the game.

The best ends were Muller of California; Swanson of Nebraska; Kiley and Anderson of Notre Dame, and Roberts of Centre.

Red Roberts must be ranked as one of the great football players of the year.

## *Leading Stars*

**I**F one had to name men who could hardly be kept off any all-star team the list would include Killinger of Penn State; Devine of Iowa; Aldrich of Yale; Roberts of Centre; Owen of Harvard; Kiley and Mohardt of Notre Dame; Muller of California (although badly handicapped by an early season injury), and Slater of Iowa.

As a result of the western advance this last season there is almost a certainty that intersectional games will take on added interest in the future and that schedules to be made at an early date will include an even greater number of intersectional contests. As it was Princeton, Harvard, Pittsburgh and West Point all went down to defeat in leading intersectional tests.

The general opinion was that Notre Dame was at least two touchdowns stronger than any team in the east except possibly Penn State or Lafayette.

Aldrich, Killinger and Devine proved to be three wonderful backs of the type that rarely appears in a single season. They were all brilliant at almost every angle of the game.

The season in general was one of the most successful ever known and the game now has reached a point where even the greatest bowls and stadiums are not half large enough for Saturday crowds. For the Army-Navy game alone over 200,000 applications were received, the largest known in football history



Mohardt of Notre Dame, a great running and passing half-back

Keystone

Penn State and Lafayette looked to be the strongest teams in the east, fully capable of holding their own with almost any elevens in the country.

Penn State had a good line and two of the greatest backfield stars in the game in Killinger and Wilson.