

ON THE GRIDIRON.

Ottawa City Defeats Varsity
in a Close Game.

THE GRANITES DEFAULT.

They Would Not Accept the Appointed Referee—Easy Victory for Harvard—Yale Whitewashed.

Toronto, November 19.—Ottawa's Rough Riders defeated Varsity in the semi-final football match for the Canadian Rugby championship this afternoon, at Rosedale, by 7 points to 3. At half time the students were ahead by 3 to 0, but even then the supporters of the visitors were quite sanguine of victory.

The day was fine overhead, with a nice breeze blowing from the west, and the sun peeping at intervals through the moving clouds. The field was perfect and the arrangement admirable. Everyone was excluded from the touch-lines, and the big crowds in the grand stand, club house balconies and around the fences were afforded an unobstructed view. About 2,000 witnessed the contest, including 100 from Hamilton and the same number from Ottawa, the last contingent coming west especially to back the Rough Riders. So anxious were the Capital supporters to get their money on the game that as long odds as 5 to 1 were offered in down town resorts at noon. The ruling figure at the club house before the start with 3 to 1, with even money that Ottawa would double the score, and the Rough Riders landed every bit. At half time 3 to 4 was offered by the visitors, with some takers.

The students started off like well-trained wild men and their initial run on the Ottawa citadel made the former's followers all feel dizzy. In a very few plays Wilson was forced to rouge and the ball would not leave the eastern goal. The Rough Riders' only salvation was in close scrimmage work, a policy they adhered to more strictly before the interval. This mode operated kept the ball in front of the post, though in dangerous proximity all the time. A penalty kick in ten minutes let Hill place a goal, raising the score to three and making what proved Varsity's last tally of the day.

On turning over the Rough Rider element was still confident. Varsity persisted in pushing to the west end and looked almost certain to increase the lead. Twice they went over, once forcing what looked like a rouge and again for an apparent try, but Referee Bayley quite properly called back the ball for off-side play. Then the tide turned and Ottawa started with a try, following up with a rouge, touch-in-goal and another rouge, all scored from 10 to 5 minutes before the close. Again Varsity took another rally, but couldn't get nearer than the quarter line and the big game ended with the ball pretty well in midfield.

The feature was Varsity's remarkable tackling and the marvellous sprinting of Blackwood. Though the contest was of the hardest description, Bayley held the teams so well in check that not a man was ruled off.

Varsity's scrimmage was not so badly overmatched as expected, though Kennedy and his partners gained many yards by incipient rambles. It was in cool passing when pressed and clever running by Southam, Kenny and McGee that won the day for the visitors. There were numerous delays, caused by injuries to the Rough Riders, whose venerable anatomy refused to withstand the hard knocks, as did the greener outside of their younger opponents. The fierceness of the contest warranted furling at times and both defences indulged therein, Ottawa generally due to the fast following up of the students, and Varsity undoubtedly owing to rattling in the second half.

The teams were—
Varsity—Boal, McKemie, Boyd, Hill, Blythe, backs; Sanderson, Gibson, Hall, scrimmage; Meredith, McKemie, Darling, Blackwood, Burrows, Armour, Caldwell, wings.

Ottawa—Wilson, McGee, Southam, Beaulieu, Kenny, backs; Kennedy, Backham, Cameron, scrimmage; Shore, Jory, H. Walters, Hayside, M. Walters, Shillington, Palford, wings.

Referee, Ed. Bayley; umpire, R. Flahighan; timer, J. D. McMurich; touchline judges, Oler and Beaton.

After the match Referee Bayley gave out the following statement signed by himself:

The game was no doubt a hard and somewhat rough one. Varsity was unquestionably superior behind the line, with Ottawa having a marked advantage in heavy work and in combination play. Ottawa did doubtlessly indulge in off-side interference, which I penalized frequently, but there may have been some instances of this liberal manipulation that escaped my notice. Varsity neglected to allow the necessary five yards in two instances in the second half, when the ball got over the Ottawa line. This may seem hard luck, but the Capitals may also claim the same misfortune near the close, when Shillington was fairly over for a try and was shoved over the line to touch-in-goal. Taking everything into consideration, it was an admirable, though