Parke H. Davis—Football Authority—Called Upon to referee a game

Contributed by Steve Greene

A former Rutgers head coach, Alfred "Cap" Hitchner was at March Field on October 20, 1917 to witness Rutgers 33-7 victory over Lafayette.

From 1895-97, Lafayette's team was coached by a former Princeton football player who was also at the game.

He coached the 1896 team to a mythical national championship.

According to the October 22, 1917 *Daily Home News*, "Parke H. Davis, the Princeton football authority and statistician acted as head linesman, through the request of Coach (George Foster) Sanford.

Both Lafayette and Rutgers had agreed on Eberle of Swarthmore as the head linesman, but when the game was started, (Rutgers trainer) Jake Besas detected that Mr. Bruce, the Lafayette track coach, was going to officiate in that position. Coach Sanford thought a more neutral official would be preferable and with Lafayette's consent, held up the game until Mr. Davis was located in the stands and called down to act in the emergency.

While Mr. Davis has followed football for years, it was the first time he has officiated in 12 years. It is a coincidence that he came back in an official capacity on the same field where he last officiated.

Mr. Davis remembers his last appearance distinctly, as he was attacked and given a bloody nose by one of the Villanova players, after being called on to render a delicate decision against that team."

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