

UNUSUAL SPORTS HAPPENINGS

Double knockout ended championship fight
 A gunshot was dead centre - not counted
 Jack Dempsey lived with ring excitements
 Wilfred Rhodes - an extraordinary man
 Melbourne's Motordrome was exciting
 A gallant Olympics Marathon failure
 How a popular sport came into being
 Boxing patrons were uncharitable in '20s
 Horses for courses- unusual results
 Sam Clapham knew little of geography
 John L. Sullivan spanned two eras
 He retired to read cricket rules
 Sexes differ greatly in sports times
 Greek prince first introduced pugilism
 A Sydney journalist suggested C'wealth
 Watery finish for exhibitionist Games
 Johnson waited for his wife's signal
 Baseball means much in U.S.A.
 Negro tops in boxing for many years
 Gymnastics is an ancient recreation
 A great swimmer "crawled" to victory
 Arthur Mailey's bowling figures
 Jem Mace liked himself with good reason
 When cricket rules went by the board
 Boxing rings forsaken for milk bars
 The meaning of Olympic flag colors
 Birling is for skilful, courageous men
 Jack Dempsey's massive ring earnings
 Donald Dinnie, athlete and strong man
 Tommy Burns's gallant loss to Johnson
 ✓ Macdonald and Gregory, famous bowlers
 ✓ Football guernseys not always numbered
 Odd attempts to set queer records
 Nurmi and Zatopek, top distance men
 Undertakers patron saints of sledders
 Fitzsimmons was an extraordinary boxer
 Chest expansion John Rice's specialty
 Americans ignored "Griffo" and Darcy
 Willie Hoppe, king of American billiards
 An aboriginal runner showed them how
 Andy Bowen's fights lasted hours

The ducklings couldn't beat Bobby Pearce
 "Bodyline tactics set cricket back
 The greatest "head-shrinker" of them all
 First boxing champion was James Figg
 Favorites lost three re^p-layed VFL finals
 The Duke's footman put his "dooks" up
 Cycling's "Iron Man" defied death often
 Pin-bowling originated in cathedrals
 From the inside listening out
 He swam with the best for 16 years!
 Best times not indicative of merit
 When Johnson hit him he appeared dead
 North Melbourne's ^{colors} were like Joseph's coat
 "America's Cup" originated in minor race
 Plumpton coursing aided by small boys
 The fight which stirred a nation
 Tug o' wars once international affairs
 Road cycling started off on "penny farthing"^u
 Trotting's two minute mile machines
 Twenty hard rounds but boxers not paid
 The wizard^y of Walter Lindrum
 The Marquis of Queensberry lost his time-
 Izaak Walton a plagiarist? place
 Brownlow Medal named for great VFL official
 Extraordinary performances on ice
 "Boshter" Bill Squires saw stars in Cali-
 Rowing's King's Cup is historic fornia
 Australasia, not Australia, once Davis Cup
 Drongo the racehorse not a "drongo"^{team}
 ✓ A Victorian country boy showed Europe how
 He was much better than he looked ^{to shoot}
 Old-time boxers had famous financial men
 "Boy" Charlton, ^{top} swimmer to back them
 "Black Prince" Peter was indeed a gentle-
 Dark deeds before Board of Control met ^{man}
 Carbine and Wakeful shared great- grand-
 J.W.H.T. Douglas, a great ^{father's heart} athlete
 Australian football has seen many changes
 Jack Sharkey lost on foul after bell rang
 He rowed in King's Cup and in the ocean
 Two extraordinary weight-lifters

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Country cyclist showed city slickers how
The Frenchman was a good judge
The story of the cricket "ashes"
Israel forsaken for the Emerald Isle
Once in a Test match every player bowled
Shades of Women's Lib 200 years ago!
"Professor" Miller's reputation in the
Heart - the attribute of a champion ^{balance}
Horse racing owes much to the Arab
Australia's first car-trial's astonish-
ing result
He was better than he looked
Over the fence with George Bonner
Some long "strolls" in the yesteryear
VFL owes much to VFA and Amateurs
Paavo Nurmi, first great distance
Gloaming was a champion N.Z. ^{runner} horse
Ups and downs of VFL and VFA football
Two Collingwood champions in different
Charles Bannerman was first century ^{spheres}
Professionalism ruined early Olympic ^{maker}
Bunton, Nash stood out in great ^{Games} football
Australia's most versatile horse ^{age}
A busy day's cricket for a little man
Great jockey's failures in big races
Heads spun when Turner turned it on
Fortitude, courage won for Glen Cunning-
ham
The champion gave long starts
A Dane's head was used as football
Melbourne once had three days of racing
weekly

Extraordinary dead-heats in horse racing
Versatile pony out-jumped them all
"Shepherders" left men standing
Ivo Whitton's extraordinary golf record
Australia's two great professional ath-
letes
An unlucky Olympic swimmer
Tragedy stalked three great middleweights
The first photo-finish was in cycling
Five venues for two fights
Some unusual Test cricket facts
American boxer had unusual training pro-
gramme
"Snowy" Baker taught the Yanks to ride
Great swimmer originated surf-riding
Tom Morris's extraordinary exploits
Essendon and Geelong had League and Assoc-
iation teams
~~First boxing champion was James Figg~~
No Tests were played by early cricket
A "ring-in" accused of not trying! ^{teams}
An apprentice with big race record
Wine merchant built Lords cricket ground
The great W.G. Grace had some queer habits
Six brothers played in a football team
Remarkable case of two holes in one
Two unusual football matches in Melbourne
Leading racing man had many occupations
Full forwards were glamour boys of footy
Unusual happenings at Stawell Gift meeting
Emil Zatopek's remarkable distance runs

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Emil Zatopek, greatest of distance runners / The wizardry of Walter Lindrum
 Fortitude won for Glen Cunningham / Some long "strolls in the yesteryear
 Australia's first car trial / Two strange happenings at the Stawell Gift
 Sexes differ greatly in sports performances / Pin bowling first played in German cathedrals
 Chest expansion was John Rice's forte / Two great professional athletes
 Small boys did much for Plumpton coursing / "Professor Miller's reputation nearly lost
 When Australasia played in Davis Cup / Excitement at Melbourne's Motorrome
 First boxing champion was James Figg / Abie Belasco forsook Israel for Ireland
 The champion Frenchman was a good judge / Professionalism ruined early Olympic Games
 Willie Keppe "crowned" billiards king / Paavo Nurmi was the first great distance man
 A watery finish for an exhibitionist / Meaning of colors of the Olympic flag
 Sydney man suggested Empire Games / Heart - the attribute of the champion
 Gymnastics - an ancient recreation / When an aboriginal runner showed them how
 The story of the Test cricket "Ashes" / Undertakers are patron saints of bob sleds
 Was Izaak Walton a plagiarist? / The America's Cup originated in a small race
 Birling is for Skilful/courageous men / Some very early boxing matches
 A Greek prince first introduced pugilism / Arthur Mulley's extraordinary bowling
 Charles Bannerman, Australia's 1st batsman / Extraordinary performances on ice
 Two extraordinary weight - lifters / Baseball means much in the United States
 A Victorian showed Europe how to shoot / How a popular sport came into being
 Ivo Whitton's remarkable golf record / "Shepherders" left few footballers standing
 North Melbourne's colors have been varied / Football guernseys were not always numbered
 The VFL owes much to the VFA and Amateurs / A small Show pony outjumped them all
 Tug-o-wars were international affairs / Donald Dinnie was athlete and strong man
 Record times not indicative of merit / Some extraordinary tries to set queer records
 McDonald and Gregory great fast bowlers / The Great W.G. Grace had some queer habits
 He retired to read the rules of cricket / Full forwards were the glamor boys of footy
 A Dane's head was used as a football / Early Australian Rules football had changes
 The fight which stirred a nation / The Duke's footman put his "looks" up
 Six brothers played football in same team / He was better than he looked in the picture

Championship fight - Double K. O.
In a Test match every player bowled
A wine merchant built the famous Lords
Two Collingwood champions in different spheres
A match which never ended
Brownlow medal named for V.F.L. official
Cycling's "Iron Man" defied death
The "Penny-farthing" - our early racer
A wavering eaber spoiled the Scots fun
The ducklings couldn't beat Bobby Pearce
Duke Khanomoku, a great surf-board rider
How unlucky can a Games contender be?
The greatest "head-shrinker" of them all
A great swimmer "crawled" to victory
A Victorian showed Europe how to shoot
A Ring-in was accused of not trying!
Leading racing man had many occupations
A champion horse gave others big starts
Australia's most versatile horse
Over the fence with George Bonner
Two unusual football matches in Melbourne
Evolution of the two minutes trotting mile
The "Bodyline" attack set cricket back
Carbine and Wakeful shared Grandfather's heart
"Black Prince" Peter was a gentleman
"Horses for courses" - unusual courses
Fitzsimmons was extraordinary boxing champion
Jack Dempsey lived with ring excitements
"Snowy" Baker taught Americans how to ride
Drongo was far from being a "drongo"
The Marquis of Queensberry lost his watch

Gleaming was N.Z.'s greatest horse
Heads spun when Turner turned it on
Favored teams lost in re-played VFL finals
Bunton and Nash stood out in the 'thirties
A country boy showed the city slickers how
First scratch man to win Warrnambool
Two holes in one at the same hole
Our first photo-finish was in a cycle race
Rowing's King's Cup is an historic trophy
Tom Morris swam and skipped
Boy Charlton once led the swimming world
Sam Clapham's Land's End was in Yorkshire!
Shot was dead centre but it did not count
He swam with the best for sixteen years
Jack Johnson waited for wife's signal
Some unusual Test cricket facts
Great jockeys' disappointments in races
Apprentice's unequalled big race record
J.W.H.T. Douglas was a great all-rounder
Horse racing owes everything to the Arab
A busy day's cricket for a little man
Melbourne had three days racing each week
Wilfred Rhodes was an extraordinary cricketer
Extraordinary dead-heats in horse racing
Twenty hard rounds but no pay for boxers
Famous promoter forsook boxing rings for milk bars
Boxing patrons uncharitable in the 1920s
Shades of Women's Lib 200 years ago
Tragedy stalked three great middleweights
Jim Mace liked himself but with good reason
"Boshter Bill" Squires saw "stars" abroad

A gallant Olympic Marathon failure	J.L.Sullivan spanned two boxing eras
When Jaek Johnson hit him they thought he was dead	Negroes tops in boxing for many years
Five venues for two fights	Jaek Sharkey lost on foul after bell rang
Essendon each had V.F.L. and V.F.A. teams	Dempsey's ring earnings exceeded 5 million
Australian Boxing owed much to Larry Foley	He rowed in the King's Cup and in the sea
Old-time boxers had some famous backers	American boxer had unusual training programme
Americans ignored "Griffo" and Les Darcy	Andy Bowen's fights lasted hours
From the inside listening out	Tommy burns a gallant loser against Jaek Johnson

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[Emil Zatopek, greatest of distance runners.]

after the Amsterdam Games

The world had to wait twenty years to see another Nurmi appear on the Olympic scene - Emil Zatopek, a 26 years-old Czech army officer.

At the London Games in 1948, Zatopek was narrowly beaten in the 5000 metres by Gaston Reiff, of Belgium, but he won the 10,000 metres convincingly.

However, it was another four years before the name of the great Czech became a household word like that of Nurmi, and burst upon the scene he did!

It was at Helsinki where he started off by winning the 10,000 metres in record time, being 16 seconds faster than the second place-getter, Mimoun, of Algeria, who, four years later at the Melbourne Games, was to win the marathon.

Again in the 5000 metres he broke the record to become the second man in Olympic history to win this double, Kolehmainen, of Finland, being the first in 1912.

Since Zatopek's effort, Kuts (USSR) at Melbourne, 1956, and Viren (Finland) at Munich, 1972, have also won the double.

It is interesting to note that while Zatopek was winning the 5000 metres his wife, Dana, was preparing to throw in the women's javelin event, which she later won with a record distance. It is the only time in Olympic history that a husband-wife team has won gold medals at the Games.

Great as were his performances in winning the double, it was in the marathon that the great Czech proved what a remarkable distance ^{runner} he had become.

Completing the long race, Zatopek entered the stadium for the last lap alone, and spectators later said that he appeared to run it at the same pace as he would a lap of the 5000 metres! Whatever their judgement, so great were the Czech's physical powers, that a minute later he was chatting to friends across the railings and joking with the Press as he watched others in the field stagger home.

It was the first marathon in which he had competed and his time was six minutes better than any which had been run.

That the mantle of Nurmi fell on worthy shoulders there can be little doubt. Emil Zatopek was a worthy successor to the great Finn.

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A GALLANT MARATHON FAILURE

Thousands of people, including King Edward VII, watched a small figure stagger towards the finishing line of the marathon race at the London Olympic Games in 1908, and they were silent, for it was tragic moment.

When, to a great roar of cheering, a little Italian, Pietro Durando, had entered the Stadium shortly before, the rest of the field, headed by John Hayes, an American, was not in sight and it seemed the lonely figure would win easily, after leading most of the way. But the 26 miles, 385 yards journey was taking its toll of Italy's pride, and he moved slowly and unsteadily around that long last lap. He made the entrance to the straight where, with the tape in sight, he weaved from side to side for some distance before crumpling to his knees as John Hayes came into the Stadium.

To the silent thousands watching it seemed minutes before he got to his feet, where he stood wavering before taking a few more steps towards his goal. But again he went down, this time apparently for "keeps".

Unable to bear the strain any longer, his excited countrymen ran to the fallen man, lifted him up and helped him to the line, only yards away. Hayes, just plodding along, followed him through and, when correctly the Italian was disqualified for receiving assistance, was declared the winner.

The decision resulted in much heated discussion among the officials of many nations, and Hayes felt some reluctance in accepting the gold medal, feeling like the thousands present a great sympathy for a gallant loser.

This sympathy was later manifested when, to commemorate the occasion, a special medal was struck, and presented to ^PPietro Durando by King Edward.

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A wavering caber upset the Scots

Until late afternoon, New Year's Day, 1886, had been a grand day for the Scots celebrating Hogmanay at the Maryborough (Vic) sports ground, until an Irishman unwittingly spoiled it for them.

Marsh Cahn, the Australian champion walker, had walked a 6m 19sec mile for them and Donald Dinnie, the world-famous Scottish field games expert had given exhibitions of putting the shot, throwing the hammer and lifting huge bar-bells.

Opposing the Scot in these events, a local farmer, named Pat Brennan, had performed very well, so he decided to attempt tossing the caber after Dinnie had given a masterful display at handling the cumbersome object, at which he was expert.

The caber, in those days a small tree trunk about 20 feet long and weighing about 250lbs, is held upright before the body and tossed forward so that the tapered end of the trunk digs into the ground, to which point the throw is measured,

Brennan, a big man, had little difficulty in raising the caber from the ground, but getting it raised upright in front of the body was his problem. After some minutes of vain effort he desisted, and dropped the butt end to the ground. The caber wavered and slowly toppled sideways across the end of a canvas marquee which was filled with happy Scots enjoying refreshing. Guy ropes snapped and the whole roof fell in on the drinkers, none of whom was injured physically. But many suffered mental anguish when they surveyed the damage to their drinking equipment and supplies.

It is safe to assume that from that day no Irishman was invited to toss the caber again on the Maryborough sports ground.

HIS SHOT WAS DEAD/CENTRE BUT IT DID NOT COUNT!

Sceptical audiences at the musical "Annie, Get Your Gun" watched the heroine Annie Oakley, show great skill with pistol and rifle in her role in circuses and fair-grounds.

But the real Annie Oakley, upon the life of whom the musical was based, was a real markswomen, particularly with the shotgun, for at Pinehurst, North Carolina in 1922, she attained the ambition of every clay-pigeon shot by bringing down 100 birds straight.

An Australian, who had equalled Annie's feat before he competed in the Sydney anniversary shoot, in 1938, was Horrie James, who shot under the name of "Duxbac", and an extraordinary happening there prevented him from repeating it.

At the Harbor City, where the best shots in the land competed, James shot 95 straight before shooting the centre out of his 96th bird without breaking it and, because the rules require that a discernible piece must be broken from the target if it is not shattered, James's perfect shot was not allowed, dust only being blown from the bird. However, his 95 straight was a score sufficient for him to win the championship.

James later explained that the cartridge was a faulty one, the lead shot remaining in a compact mass instead of spreading. It was a thousand to one chance for the champion to miss out on a record like that.

THE WIZARDRY OF WALTER LINDRUM

Not in any pastime or in any sport has anyone approached the skill of Walter Lindrum, who followed his grandfather and father as a champion on the green cloth. Not only did he have unbelievable skill, but he had purpose and application to an amazing degree, attributes never absent in a great champion in any sphere.

In exhibitions he played some remarkable shots. When challenged to place the balls anywhere on the table in positions from where Lindrum could not score, none succeeded. In three shots he was able to make the nursery cannon position - the three balls close together close to the cushion - after which he would proceed to score one hundred in 35 seconds!

After he, as a young man, had reached the top, no one came anywhere near him as a billiardist, and an example of this was his meeting with Joe Davis in London, in 1932. Davis, who claimed to be the world champion and was good enough to make a 1500 break any day of the week, accepted 7000 start in a 14 days match.

In these matches play comprises periods of three hours at afternoon and evening sessions and on the last day, just as the afternoon session ended, Davis "broke" on a 1300 break, leaving Lindrum 3300 behind as the evening session began.

In this apparently impossible position, Lindrum was not dismayed. He put his head down and, when he lifted it two hours and 55 minutes later, he had scored the world record break of 4137 unfinished!

In subsequent international visits Walter broke the English billiards records in U.S.A. (2609), Canada (1774) and India (981). His remarkable display of nursery cannon play caused the English authorities to introduce a rule which required the baulk-line to be crossed once after 100 cannons had been scored. Lindrum found this simple to perform and, playing only nursery cannon shots, took the three balls three times around the table, crossing 16 pockets, to score 559 consecutive cannons.

We shall never see his like again.

SHADES OF WOMEN'S "LIB" 200 YEARS AGO

Modern supporters of women's "lib" have claimed that the ladies have many ^{admirable} ~~admiral~~ attributes, but the art of fisticuffs is not one of them.

However, more than 200 years ago, a lady advertised in a ^{London} news sheet her desire to engage in a bout of fisticuffs with a rival, in the following manner:

"Challenge --- I, Elizabeth Wilkinson, of Clerkenwell, having had some words with Hannah Hyfield, and desiring satisfaction, do invite her to meet me upon the stage and to box me for three guineas; each woman to hold a half-crown in each hand and the first one to drop the money to lose the battle".

And her rival's reply was ferocious:

"I, Hannah Hyfield, of Newgate Market, hearing of the resoluteness of Elizabeth Wilkinson, will not fail, God willing, to give her more blows than words --- desiring home blows, and from her no favour; she may expect a good thumping,

It seems that even the women had their eye on some stake-money in those far-off days.

THE STORY OF THE TEST CRICKET "ASHES"

The Test "Ashes", for which Australia and England battle, are of course, mythical in the sense of being a trophy. The term originated after the Test match at Kensington Oval, in 1882, when England, needing only 85 runs to win the game, were routed for only 77 runs.

Disappointed at the surprise result, an English newspaper printed a mock obituary notice, which was written by the son of the editor of London "Punch":

"In remembrance of English cricket which died at the Oval on August 29th, 1882. Deeply lamented by a large circle of sorrowing friends and acquaintances. The body will be cremated, and the ashes taken to Australia".

Soon afterwards, Ivo Bligh, at 23 years the youngest Test captain, led an English team to Australia and, after the second match of the tour at Melbourne, a number of Melbourne women presented him with an urn containing the ashes of the stumps which had been used in the Melbourne match.

Many years later, on his death, the urn passed to the Marylebone Cricket Club, and these are the "Ashes" we speak of. However, they will remain at Lords cricket pavilion whatever the result of Australian and English Tests.

The "Ashes" were not all that Ivo Bligh, later to become Lord Darnley, was presented with in Melbourne. One of the ladies who made the presentation later became Lady Darnley.

"I'm delighted that that obituary appeared in our English paper", he said, after the wedding. "Look at the treasure it has brought me". The nobleman was certainly a ~~remarkable~~ likeable character.

GYMNASTICS --- AN ANCIENT RECREATION

Apart from the dyed-in-the-wool enthusiasts engaged in its activities, gymnastics remained a closed book to most Australians until the advent of the Melbourne Olympic Games when, with the world's greatest exponents of an ancient recreation shown in action, gymnastics as a spectacle created great enthusiasm.

Gymnastics, from the ancient Greek, means athletic, disciplinary exercise, and gymnasium the ground or place for such exercises. Greek rulers of bygone times decreed that the youth of Greece must strive for physical perfection and this led to the building of huge roofless ^agymnasiums large enough to encompass a running track, a field for weight, discus and javelin throwers, dressing rooms, bathrooms and rubbing rooms.

Although only the males competed at these places, the gardens surrounding them became popular meeting places for social occasions and rivalled the market place. However, after the Romans had conquered Greece and, in 392 A.D., the Roman Emperor Theodosius decreed that physical training was no longer compulsory, the ^agymnasiums were closed as training places and the youth lost interest in gymnastics.

Since the founding of the modern Olympics eighty years ago, however, fresh impetus has been given to gymnastics, and they now form, perhaps, the most interesting and instructive series of events in the Games programme.

One of the most difficult and artistic of all Olympic events, gymnastics calls for perfect physical fitness, judgement and incredible skill of both men and women, which astonished ~~xxxxxxx~~ Australians who saw the remarkable exhibitions for the first time at the Melbourne Games ²⁵nineteen years ago.

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WHEN AUSTRALASIA, NOT AUSTRALIA, PLAYED IN THE DAVIS CUP

Prior to the first World War, Australia was not represented singly in the Davis ^{Cup} but teamed with New Zealand, as Australasia, to meet England and the United States for the American trophy.

In those years there were no Cup teams as there are today, those who could afford the time and the expense being the chief exponents.

Norman Brookes, of Australia, and Anthony Wilding, of New Zealand, winners twice and threetimes ^{ively} respectf~~fully~~ly of the Wimbledon singles title, ^owere Australasia's representatives for a number of years and only the United States players approached them. They were both great baseline players in a day before the "net-rushers" had arrived.

When war broke out in 1914, Wilding enlisted in the British army and was killed in France. Brookes enlisted in the Red Cross and lived to team with Gerald Patterson as Australia in many great battles with big Bill Tilden and little Bill Johnson, most of which Australia lost, ^{the Americans,}

Tilden was the first of the express servers and from his powerful game today's net-rushing tactics gradually developed.

By Maurice Walsh

Come April, all over Australia its denizens, large and small, will devote their energies to kicking blue blazes out of all types of leather balls - and each other. This country is unique that four different codes of football are played here, but football is much older than it.

The game has one of the most ancient and most interesting histories of modern sports, for it is generally agreed that the Romans introduced the rough basic idea of the game to Britain, a form of ball play popular among their legions.

The use of a ball as a form of entertainment is believed to have had its origin in ancient pagan festivals. It is known that at early Egyptian festivals the priests used to toss a ball to each other, the ball representing the mummified head of their god Osiris.

At all events the Romans had a game Harpastum, in which two teams faced each other on either sides of a dividing line, above which the ball was tossed into the air. Immediately the teams went for it all in, the idea being to grab it and run with it, touching it down on a line drawn behind the opposing team. Just as it is today in Australian Rules or Rugby, if any player got killed or hurt it was just too bad that he got in the way.

Whatever its origing an early version of the game was played at Chester and Derby soon after the Romans pulled out of Britain. An extraordinary, macabre legend of the time suggests that the ball used in the first game was the head of a luckless Danish invader. The citizenry of Chester had repulsed the Danes and, capturing one, to celebrate their victory lopped off his head and had joyous sport kicking it around the streets of the town.

However, as apparently there was a scarcity of Danish heads available later, a leather ball replaced the skull. Every Shrove Tuesday, it is recorded, the Shoemakers Guild met in the presence of the Mayor, and delivered to the Drapers Guild "one football valued at not less than three shillings and four pence. It will be made of leather". Whereafter all hands settled down to a pleasant game of putting the boot into the ball, and into one another.

By the Middle Ages, football games between rival villages had become a regular Shrove Tuesday custom. It was a cruel and barbarous game which allowed rival villagers to have an open slather at each other. On the morning of the match the players involved took up a collection from door to door of "wind-money" to defray the cost of a feast at the local inn after the affray.

On the day of the match the ball was kicked off at noon at some handy spot such as the village green, after which licensed mayhem was the order of the day for young and old. The goals were miles apart, and open field or village street was all the same to the milling horde. Nothing was allowed to prove an obstacle to the participants, especially bystanders. Sensible folk barricaded their doors and windows and stayed indoors, but eventually the riotous behaviour, especially when the sport spread to the streets of London, attracted the attention of the authorities, but attempts to ban the game, even by Edward 11, were unsuccessful.

By Tudor times the game was still popular and played in much the same crude style. Scores of people were being killed or maimed each year at the "sport", but both the efforts of Henry VIII and Elizabeth to outlaw the game failed. It was not until Stewart times that the pastime showed some faint traces of refinement. Still very popular, it still amounted to a riot when played in London streets, but King Charles II was often an interested spectator, and with his interest the game improved.

The transition from rough-and-tumble and free-for-all to that approaching today's soccer game took place mainly in the big English public schools, and the different codes of modern football were evolved because of the facilities there. At Rugby school's large open fields there was room for the rushing game by numbers of players similar to the old streets game, and sometimes the entire school of more than 300 boys took part, and the wild scrums were something to see.

However, even as played at Rugby, football was still mainly a kicking game, the player not being allowed to run with the ball. But in 1823, one Rugby lad earned himself contemporary disgrace, but immortal sporting fame, by catching the ball, tucking it under his arm, and making a beeline for the opposition goal.

Today a granite slab let into a wall at Rugby records his feat thus :

This Stone
Commemorates the exploit of
WILLIAM WEBB ELLIS
who, with a fine disregard of the rules of football as played in his time, first
took the ball in his arms and ran with it, thus originating the distinctive feature
of the Rugby game.
A. D. 1823

At other big schools such as Charterhouse and Westminster, however, only paved courtyards and cloisters were available in which the pupils could play, and a new game had to be evolved in the interests of the safety of boys and school windows. So there developed a system of dribbling the ball with the feet so that it kept low, and body tackling was barred. Thus in these two schools began gradually the football game which today we know as Soccer.

While young Master Ellis was perpetrating his historic gallop at Rugby, the hardy inmates of the penal colony of New South Wales, 12,000 miles away on the other side of the world, and completely unsullied by any suggestion of Public School influence, were free to invent a game of their own, which was something on the lines of the village "free-for-all" and, unless the aborigines had forestalled them, was the first game of football played in these parts.

About mid-century the game began to be played in a roughly organised fashion in Melbourne, with rules differing greatly from those recognised in England and, in 1858, a number of enthusiasts, including an old Rugby boy in T.W. Willis, formed the Melbourne Football Club.

As played then football was still a rough and brutal game in which sinking the boot into the opponent was all part of the game. However, after a large number of clubs came into existence in the next eight years, it became obvious that some systematic control of the game was necessary so, on May 8, 1866, delegates met to formulate a set of rules, and those devised then are substantially the rules of the Australian game as it is played today.

Rugby Union, the amateur game, and Soccer were imported from England much later, and the popular professional game, Rugby League, was not introduced into Sydney until about seventy years ago, when clubs were formed by break-aways ~~for~~ from the Rugby Union code, but the game is confined mainly to N. S. W. and Queensland.