

## VIEW ON SPORTS

By STANLEY WOODWARD  
(Red Smith is on vacation)

### What's With This Football?

Europeans, South Americans, Hindus, and people from most other parts of the world can't understand why we like baseball and our own brand of football and do not like—or at least have not liked thus far—their brand of football which we call soccer.

Most outlanders, seeing our two principal games the first time, conclude that they comprise short bursts of action interrupted by long periods of standing around. This is probably a justified characterization but it doesn't hurt the game indoctrinated American who utilizes the standing around periods either to eat peanuts or further his personal strategic plan or action or both.

The European, South American, or Asian, however, points out that in his football there is no standing around. When play begins, it goes for 45 minutes running time (no times out) unless a player is badly hurt and has to be carried off the field. In this case the referee may notify the captains that two minutes has been added to the half, making it 47 minutes.

The length of the intermission between halves is arranged by agreement. In the National Soccer League, now playing the second half of its schedule, the rest is eight minutes. Then another 45-minute half is played.

As most people know, there is no substitution in soccer—excuse me—football. An injured player may limp around the field doing the best he can or get off. Or he can go off for a while and come back. In one ISL game both teams were reduced to 10 men. There is a local rule, however, permitting substitution for the goaltender.

Personally, I never thought much of this game until I saw



it in the months I spent in England during the last war. At that time one could never be sure how good a team would be because all the players were in the service and the only ones who could play were those who could get passes covering the game Saturday afternoon. However, I saw some good games including an international match between England and Scotland in which Sir Stanley Matthews, knighted for his dribbling, was the top player and chief contributor to England's victory.

### Game Being Promoted in America

A group of soccer devotees has been promoting the game in America for years without making any impression. Games have been played in small parks on the edge of many American cities and the chief support came from immigrants who had been indoctrinated in youth. No semblance of a foothold was gained among the native-born, except in schools and colleges where the soccer teams play in virtual privacy.

To implant soccer in the United States the top foreign players had to be brought here and importing them is something that Bill Cox, whatever his motives, has been doing for two years. His International Soc-

cer League is now more than halfway through its second summer season. Thirteen able foreign teams have been or still are in contention.

Cox's league, which includes a Canadian team in both sections and included an American team in the first, has drawn better than it did a year ago. The plan is to run two round-robin series involving eight non-repeating teams, then match the winners in a two-game total-goal series for the league championship.

Conception of the idea for this league required just the kind of a leaping brain Cox has. Carrying it out required enough nerve, which he also has, to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel.

### Yes, There Is a Santa Claus

He has been in the regular business of selling pillings and others perhaps. He also ran the Phillies baseball club and the Brooklyn Dodgers football club. He is or was holder of republication rights to the world-shaking "Sun" editorial, "Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus."

We can imagine that William repeats these inspirational words to himself every time he sees a sparse crowd in the Polo Grounds. A bundle must have been dropped last year but things are somewhat better now and the championship series could do very well.

Everton, of England, champions of the first round, probably will meet Dukla, of Czechoslovakia, which is engaged in cleaning up on second-round

opponents. A second-round dark-horse is Espanol, which has to its credit two victories over Real Madrid, one of the best teams in the world.

A Mr. John Moores of Liverpool is principal backer of Everton. He is director of Littlewood Football Pools—hear! hear! But nobody in Blighty gives it a thought.

All the teams are professional except Rapid of Austria, which is semi-professional, and Petah Tikvah of Israel, which is semi-amateur. Many of the Israeli players work for a bus company.

Explaining the importance of football in Israel, an attache of the team said, "When there is a football game we do not ask the boss if we can go. We just work an hour early and catch the bus for the field."

The real reason he leaves so early is he knows the bus won't be running in another ten minutes. The driver will be playing football.

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