



Charles W. Dabney, 1887-1904

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October 2010

Dabney's Hand-Written Response to Criticism about UT-UGA Football Game

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Recommended Citation

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A reply to certain criticism made by the football team of the University of Georgia against the University of Tennessee.

1. As to their walking to the park. They boarded a street car in front of the University at 2.45 and one change was necessary. The Tennessee team walked the distance of five or six short blocks. The Georgia men had been there in the morning and knew the distance.
2. As to selection of referee: Our manager preferred Mr. Ault, a Washington and Lee man for referee and Mr. Cannon a Princeton man for umpire. Georgia said they preferred Preece, ^{formerly} who they knew was coach of the Tenn. team. We preferred Ault because he had no connection with either University. Mr. Ault declined to serve and Georgia still preferring Preece, he was chosen as referee. Having the man of their choice they ought to abide by his decisions.
3. As to claim that referee gave ball to Tenn after kick off owing to a fumble. The report of the game made on the spot reads thus: "Newman kicked to Georgia's fifteen yard line, Georgia advanced five yards and was downed. Lindsay bucked for seven yards, fumbled the ball and Jamagin of Tenn. fell upon the ball" The statement that the referee said that the ball always belongs to the opposing side irrespective of who falls on it is denied absolutely by the referee as there is no such rule in football.

4. Georgia's claim that the referee took the ball from them penalized them for off-side play can not be true as the referee has nothing to do with off-side play, that being the umpire's duty. As to place kicks for goal, the facts are these: The ball was advanced near to Georgia's goal by Newman's kick. In trying for place kick the first time the ball did hit Jamagin of Tenn. but it also struck a Georgia man before Tenn. fell upon it. The second attempt was blocked by a Georgia man and the third attempt was successful. These attempts were not consecutive but each time were made on the third down. If Tenn. was losing ground as claimed, the ball could not have been so near Georgia's goal.

5. Georgia complaint of frequent penalizing. This, when done at all, must have been done by the umpire as the referee gave no penalties during the entire game. Georgia in her account says that the umpire was an impartial man. The umpire gave only two penalties for off side play and not the dozen as claimed.

6. Georgia finds fault with the referee for blowing his whistle and thus breaking up their series play. The facts are these: Owing to the fact that there was a mistake in laying off the five-yard lines, it was agreed before the game by the manager and captain of the Georgia team and referee Pierce that they would rely wholly upon the linesmen as to the five yards.

to be covered, hence on every first down it was necessary for the referee to see that the linesmen had their stakes in proper position. In doing so Georgia ~~team~~ captain requested the referee to have time taken out which he did. This plan was observed throughout the entire game.

7. Georgia claim that at second half referee and umpire are to change places. There is nothing in the foot ball rules to that effect.

8. Georgia claim that our manager said he would pay no money unless the game was played out. ~~to~~ This is false. Neither the manager nor any one ~~on the team~~ in authority made such statement. If such remarks were made they were made by outsiders who had nothing to do with the management.

9. Georgia states that the umpire asked to be relieved of his duties. The umpire denies this in toto in his accompanying statement.

10. Georgia claim that she would have scored in the last two minutes of the game had not been called. When game was called the ball was in Georgia's territory on about the 40 yard line and at no time during the game was the ball nearer Tenn's goal than the fifteen yard line. The electric lights had been turned on for some time and the umpire was unable to see foul plays, and approved of the action of the referee.