

A STUDY OF FOOTBALL NECK INJURIES
IN THE BIG EIGHT CONFERENCE

by 2235

ALBERT LOUIS VERMEIL

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INTRODUCTION

People truly concerned with safety in football are becoming more aware of the ever increasing number of neck injuries. According to the American Coaches Association fatality survey, all direct fatalities in 1968 resulted from either head or neck injuries.¹ Individuals who are involved in football coaching should be aware of this fact. Sometimes coaches in searching for better techniques become so intensely involved with the mechanical things, they forget that they are dealing with human beings and not machines.

The game of football is a rough contact sport. A certain amount of injuries can be expected, but the fine qualities that the game possesses offset this negative factor. Knowing that football makes many contributions to our society, then it's the responsibility of all people involved (coaches, trainers, team doctors, officials,) to find ways of decreasing and preventing injuries.

PURPOSE OF STUDY

The purpose of the study was to examine the tackling technique that some coaches were teaching. There was evidence that some coaches were teaching a dangerous technique. The technique being examined is teaching to tackle the opponent by putting the face into the opponent's chest upon contact. This report should be of significant value to the coaching profession.