

**Nebraska Spirit
and Its Expression**
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When the sun is bright
And the fields are ripe
With the tassel on the corn
You can hear it grow
In the evening glow
Or the hush of early morn,
In the state so fair
'Tis the very air
That inspires us with a zest
That in any fray
We will not dismay
But will do our level best.

The present year is one that always will be remembered whenever Nebraska spirit is mentioned. All Cornhuskers agree that there has never been before such frank, such sincere, such potent enthusiasm. Perhaps the principal reason for this may be found in the tense influence of the day. This is a time, if there ever was a time, when group co-operation is imperative, when the bigger interests must completely swal-

low up the lesser ones. In the face of this fusing fire Nebraska spirit, which has always been strong and powerful, has been cleansed of all petty influences and has been united into a single-purposed fealty the like of which has never been seen before. This strengthened spirit was evident in every form of student activity, but it was more to be seen, of course, in Nebraska's favorite game, football. It did not apply itself alone to the individual temper of the student body, but it pervaded the eleven, and members of the coaching staff declare that they have never seen a more altruistic spirit on any team than that found in the 1917 Cornhuskers. At rallies, too, the old diverting, disuniting tendency for every college and department to have a cheerleader of its own disappeared, and crowds that packed the little chapel tight united in roaring Number One until the roof, it seemed, would be lifted.

Fighting Spirit Always Present

Not only was there a spirit of unity, but the old-time fighting spirit was a

potent factor throughout the season. Nebraska faced her hardest schedule in history, and yet the Cornhuskers fought through it, never daunted, never disheartened, never discouraged. And in her one defeat at the hands of Michigan, her fighting spirit was at its best.

Surely there is no better time to judge the mettle of a team than when it is fighting a losing game, and the writer holds that this is all the more true when luck plays a prominent, if not a leading part, in the proceedings. Such was the Michigan game of 1917. The Nebraska team was outscored, and, on that slippery field, unquestionably outplayed. But Nebraska spirit was not conquered. Though the Michigan team handled a pumpkin-seed soggy ball with which a week of practice had made them familiar, though they played on a wet field that they had used for days in preparation, though the game broke early in their favor when the recovery of a Nebraska fumble near the Michigan goal line gave it the first touchdown and

the master hand, Nebraska fought a fight which, under other conditions, would have furnished a very different story.

The Result of Spirit

Nebraska spirit was given a second chance for expression when the Cornhusker and Jayhawk lined up opposite each other on McCook field. Nebraska's ancient rivals, pointed toward this game from the first of the season, outplayed themselves in the first half and scored a field goal while the Cornhuskers had not threatened the Kansas goal. During the minutes that elapsed between the two periods, the old-time fight awoke in both team and rooters, and during the rest of the game Nebraska was herself. In sturdy, steady marches she plunged down the field for two touchdowns and victory.

That was a case where Nebraska fight was needed to bring the Cornhuskers up to their best point of efficiency; it was not, however, a supreme test. Today Nebraska is to have that test, and no Cornhusker doubts that

the fight the team will put up will match in determination and fierceness the most memorable of Cornhusker battles.

So much for the splendid brand of Nebraska spirit that has been shown this season. And now a word or two as to the outlets it has had for expression. As far as appropriate vehicles are concerned, Nebraska spirit is no better equipped today than it was a year ago. Number One is still the good old, over-worked rallying cry, but, as in former years, it has been the only one. For a long, long time, Nebraska has needed more good yells, but the need is still unanswered. These who say that Nebraska spirit can never reach its full expression until it has a larger list of voicable cheers around which to cling have the burden of proof upon their side. "U-U-U-N-I," while it will always be dear to every Nebraskan's heart, and first on his lips when a cheer for the school is wanted, nevertheless it cannot do all the work alone and do it satisfactorily.



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