

IN THE VALLEY

...by...
"Zim" and "Zim"

Kansas has done it again. For the fifth consecutive year the Jayhawk basketball team has won the Missouri Valley championship. The Kansas team made certain of this year's title by winning over the Kansas Aggies at Lawrence Monday night by a score of 34 to 29.

Nebraska strengthened her hold on fourth place Monday night by defeating Drake on the Lincoln floor. The Huskers have won seven games and lost five and still have two more to play.

The two remaining games on the Nebraska schedule will be played away from home. The end of the week will find Coach Berg and his men playing Missouri at Columbia and Washington at St. Louis.

Smaha, Nebraska's leading scorer, has ascended into the elite class of those that have scored more than one hundred points this season. By making ten points in the Drake game he now has a total of 107 points. He has made 47 field goals and 13 free throws.

Smaha has played in twelve games this year and has scored on an average of 8.9 points per game. Only one of the five leading high scorers in the conference has a better average than his. Four men have scored more points than Smaha, but they have played in more games.

Now that the basketball season is over what form of sport will the University of Nebraska turn to? There will be spring football, which will be enjoyed by a few, very few. Track will have its many followers and it rightly should. But what about that great national pastime, baseball.

The athletic board of the University has deemed fit to discontinue baseball from the athletic calendar and for what reason. Some reports say that the sport was losing money and others say it was because of the lack of a training season.

Perhaps baseball, as a college sport does lose money, but how about the track? Does it pay for itself? Do wrestling teams make their own expenses? If athletics are to be eliminated because they fail to make money then Nebraska should drop everything but football, as to date it has been the only sport at the university that has been able to keep its head above water.

The idea of too short a training and playing season is a huge joke. With the new field house in use the squads could be working out indoors from the first of March. April usually presents fine baseball weather and the opening games of the season could be played away from home with the southern teams in the Valley as opponents.

If weather conditions are such that the game cannot be played to an advantage during the month of April, why then, does the Western League always open its schedule sometime during the middle of the month?

Another big argument advanced against baseball was the lack of the playing facilities. True the university has no ball park of its own, but there are several parks in the city of Lincoln and at least one of them should be available to a Nebraska baseball team. The Rock Island park is still in playing condition, and it is very likely that Charley Moon, secretary of the Lincoln Western League ball club, would grant use of his park when the Lincoln team is on the road.

Baseball should not be discontinued at Nebraska for any of these petty reasons and the return of the sport cannot be realized until the student body takes it upon themselves to see that it does come back. This sport is the great American game and

(that the University of Nebraska should abolish it and yet continue many minor sports which have no great following among the students is regrettable.

Missouri, through the Columbia Missourian sport column, have indicated their disgust for certain officials in the Valley basketball this season. One, Mr. Quigley, by name, was spoken of specifically. This is not the first time Quigley has been discussed with disfavor. And there are other officials who are being paid well for some terrible exhibitions of supposed referee work, remembering the Drake-Nebraska contest Monday evening.

One Kansas follower of the court game has made the remark that the only fair amount of good that some of the officials of the Valley games do, is to assist the defense when the team in possession of the ball breaks past and attempts to sift through before the opposition is set for the attack. Though this remark might be termed radical it has its foundation, and it has truth, speaking again of the Valley contests the writer has seen.

But the referee is not wholly to blame. Some of them do make only a half-hearted effort to supervise a contest. Many of them attempt to "call them as they see them," on the other hand. It isn't the referee, alone, or the coach alone, or even the players alone, who are responsible if a team should lose or win a game. The crowd—that is the followers of the game—may prepare to take their razzing now.

They want to see their team win so badly that sportsmanship ideals are eclipsed. The players feel the pressure as they go into the fray, having no alternative offered them. They must win, for the crowd cares only for a winner. There is nothing lower than a loser in the opinion of the crowd. Likewise the coaches are pressed with the burden of demand, continuous in itself.

The referee cannot but know the requirement thrust upon him as a result. Each team, and the followers of each team are after victory, and not the privilege and enjoyment the contests should hold in store for them. They are driven to their task as slaves! The referee is driven to his task with the fire of criticism creeping in upon him from the opposing factors. He mis-calls a move and the crowds cry "Rotten." Or he is a dear friend of a certain coach. His prejudices are with that coach knowing that his present job depends on victory. He can no longer be an impartial observer, governing the contest accordingly.

This thing called "Victory" is getting to be a life and death matter with followers of contests, for no reason whatever. Kansas had one of the greatest football seasons in her history of playing hard, determined football is the basis of comparison, as it should be. Yet the Jayhawkers lost all of their games. From the direct ratio a game won is a game lost for some other team, and just where anyone gets any place by determined insisting that the home team should always be victor, is beyond even the imagination of the athletes themselves.

To those who should take the time to glance at this column, remember that the views presented here, have arisen not from mere long distance observations, but from the viewpoint of both the athlete and the spectator.

College Press

MOMENTOUS QUESTIONS (Daily Kansan)

With good reason our peanut politicians bewail the lack of interest in campus elections and sigh for the gold old days when politicians were politicians and not ornaments, but they have an easy time of it compared with the success that their brethren elsewhere are experiencing.

In the fall elections at K. U. last year a total of 1627 votes were cast. Now the news comes that in the spring elections at Aggieville only 242 votes were cast, while at Nebraska a total of 714 decided that the politicians' little spread was worth attending.

It looks as if there were something rotten in the State of Denmark—or perhaps in politics itself. For some reason the bosses are beginning to find that they can't boss anyone but themselves. Perhaps the trouble lies in the names that the respective parties chose. At Aggieville they call their parties the Sieg-gas and the Katakaks, which might give cause for mirth among us until we chance to remember that the names of our own parties are not so well founded etymologically.

It may be that the students are tiring of a political machine founded on "hide and seek" public caucuses, progressive candidates who don't progress and candidates who don't

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count. Every year the cheers are growing fainter at the out-of-date torch light parades, reminiscent of the darker days of national politics, and rallies are attended largely by freshmen who wonder what it is all about. So as the Black Masks readjust their dominoes and the Pachacamacs begin their war dance if most of us just sit back and watch the show because we don't exactly approve of the methods, don't cry, politicians. Suppose you were at Nebraska or Manhattan!

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