

The Past Four Years

The last four seasons constitute a distinct period in the history of football at the University of Nebraska. This is not merely because of our winning teams, for we had won very largely in previous years, but on account of several reasons of deep meaning for our football future. The one thing that appeals most strongly perhaps to the devotee is the steady improvement in the essentials of form. Yost was the first to teach us the value of team work, but this was a lesson which could not be learned in a single season, and the loss of all but one of the championship team coached by him resulted in the most disastrous season in our record. In the Minnesota game of 1900 luck, and two or three stars—not the precision of our plays—brought us into notice. The next year showed some improvement, though with material not a bit better than ours, Minnesota and Wisconsin each scored three touchdowns against us. The victory over Minnesota last year came too early in the season to be attributed largely to team work, but there can be no doubt that it was due in part to the compactness and precision characteristic of the formations in later games. This year, the results of three years of thorough and systematic coaching have been much in evidence, and, uneven as the work has been at times, the team has shown repeated examples of splendid form.

It has been a long-standing grievance of those football cranks that believe occasional "knocks" to be not only tonic, but necessary, that Nebraska could not produce a fast team, nor one that could fall on the ball. The latter is as much a matter of chance, perhaps, as of individual quickness; it is almost impossible to think an eleven can be a team, and not be fast. Michigan is said to owe her unique succession of victories to the lightning-like rapidity of her plays, which have won for her coach the title "Hurry-up Yost." Carlisle owes her great reputation in football to speed far more than to any other quality. At Nebraska we have had fast backs and fast ends, but a team cannot play any faster than its slowest part, and our line has always been slow. The play of the season just past, however, has been unexpectedly gratifying in this regard. The march for the second touchdown in the Knox game was on the double-quick, the fastest team work that has ever been seen on Nebraska field. The play in the second half of the Illinois game was of the same high order, fast, running like clockwork, and with eleven men in the game all the time. Fast play depends in great measure upon staying power; on the physical side this is given by the training table, but the stamina that wins doubtful games and turns defeat into victory at the crisis rests upon the temperamental qualities of coach and players. No former 'varsity eleven at Nebraska can be compared with the present in staying power. The team of 1901 which scored three touchdowns against Haskell in the last eight minutes of play, after the Indians were two field goals to the good, made a finish as brilliant as that of the Kansas and of the Illinois games. This was not a rally, however, for Nebraska had steadily been outplaying Haskell on both offensive and defensive. With Kansas the case was very different. We were out-

played from start to finish, in carrying the ball as in defense, except at critical moments—and it is plain that scores are made or prevented at just such moments. In the first half of the Illinois game we were clearly outplayed; in the second, so great was the rally, that Illinois was fairly outclassed. In three points, team work, speed and staying power, the present season has been memorable, and it will serve as vantage ground for even better things next year.

In looking back over the season's games, it is impossible to give too high praise to the student body and their leaders for the splendid rooting they have done, which has set a standard that must never be allowed to fall. Most deeply gratifying, however, has been the rapid growth of that courtesy which goes with all true sportsmanship. No other thing in the history of the game at Nebraska has produced such a favorable impression upon both the advocates and the opponents of football. Is it too much to hope that another year will see us meeting and taking leave of each visiting team, even though they go as victors?

Among those who have helped to build up football in the university are many who deserve praise. It is possible to name but two of these—the two that stand first. It is difficult for those who have worked with Coach Booth to believe that another man could have turned out our four great teams, just as it is doubtful whether any man other than Professor Wyer would have initiated the financial policy which has made great teams possible.

FREDERIC E. CLEMENTS.

MEN WHO MADE NEBRASKA.

(Concluded from page 5).

getting down the field well under punts.

He has been playing tackle this year on the 'Varsity and doing splendid work.

His name is also another good one to add to the list for next year.

Wilson came from Illinois, some people call it God's country; we sincerely hope it is, we would dislike very much to think that it belongs to anyone else. Anyway, Wilson comes from that state. He played one year on the Illinois State Normal team before coming here.

Last year he played on the 'Varsity at tackle and proved conclusively that he understood the game.

This year he has been playing at end and keeping up the reputation he made



GRAVES.

last year. He is a strong man and heavy, and knows how to use his weight as well as any man you will find.

Standeven is also a product of the Omaha High School, having played on that team for two years at end. This is his first year here and he has made a remarkably good record.

In the early part of the season he played on the Scrubs, but was later given the 'Varsity signals and used as a substitute end. He is a sure tackler and very speedy.

Fenlon finds it convenient to call David City his home. He played on the city team for a year before coming here.

He began on the Scrubs, but was later given the 'Varsity signals and used as a substitute end.

His playing is very aggressive and as a rule, sure. In the games which he has played he has done some excellent work.

Briggs is not a new name to the football enthusiast, who will remember him from last year's Scrubs.

He comes from Red Oak, Ia., and played on the High School team there for three years, being captain of the team the last year.

He has been playing a sub guard this year and so handles his weight that it all counts. His work has been very faithful and very good during the season.

Barta comes from Knoxville, Neb., and never saw a football until he came here.

He opened the season with the Scrubs but was later given the 'Varsity signals and has been used as sub guard.

He is a good-sized man and knows how to handle himself and will make great player.

Lantz comes from Kearney. He played on the High School team for two years in that city, one at quarter and one at half.

Lantz is not hurt with size, but is very quick and strong and has been doing very excellent work throughout the season.

Graves comes from Kearney, where he played for two years on the Kearney Military Academy team.

This is his first year of football at the University and he has certainly made an excellent beginning.

He began on the Scrubs but was very soon transferred to the 'Varsity and alternates with Eager at left half. On the defense he is exceptionally strong, and has a remarkable ability for smashing interference. On the offensive he is quick and sure and at times his hurdling is sensational.

He will be a particularly strong man for behind the line next year.

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