

## The Results of Mass Meetings

I have been asked to say something of "Football meetings and what they accomplish." Several years ago, when attendance at games was uncertain, public interest feeble, and money for athletic purposes hard to obtain, these meetings were a necessity. They were missionary meetings. Many of the new students had never heard of football, and few of the old students were sure that they knew a punt from a place kick, or a touchback from a touchdown. Those who had athletics at heart preached, and exhorted, and told stories. Mr. Ludden, one of the best missionaries that ever exhorted, called on everyone to do his duty. Pledges were circulated for signatures, and the hat was passed. By great exertion and liberal individual subscriptions, we could raise enough to keep afloat until money came in from games. Happily the need for such meetings has long since passed. Today we meet only to renew our enthusiasm, and I doubt whether the ordinary meeting at the convocation period is likely to survive much longer.

On the other hand, the value of such outbursts as followed the Minnesota game last year and preceded and followed the Kansas game this year can hardly be overestimated. They give an impetus to the team which no amount of coaching could supply. More than this, they unite the student body into an orderly and manageable band of "rooters" making it easy to eliminate all rowdiness and promote good feeling at the games. In an ultra-democratic school, where everyone is potentially a leader, and congenial impatience of orders is tempered only by the military department, proper handling of the student body at games has been a delicate undertaking. Very few have ever seen games at other institutions. Many have still to learn how to yell effectively, when to yell, and, at times, one is moved to think, what to yell. For want of proper handling, the mass of our students in years past have failed to make themselves felt. A half dozen irresponsible persons shouting "rotten" at decisions they did not un-

derstand, could leave more impression than the great body of gentlemanly and intelligent, but organized students. This year, there has been a great and wholesome change. The leadership has been good, and reasonably thorough. But much remains to be done, not merely to improve, but to keep to the point that has been reached.

I am inclined to think football meetings in the future must be resorted to chiefly for this purpose. At some time in the future organization will have become a tradition. Everyone will know or will find his place without being told. Then the last remnant of the old football missionary meeting will disappear.

ROSCOE POUND.

## A Season's Record

The record of our football team for the season of 1903 furnishes a new installment in the series of events begun so auspiciously last year and which we hope to see continued without break or mishap into future years. Another season has come and gone, bringing with it and leaving behind it a perfect record of games played. Both at home and abroad have the Cornhuskers proven superior to their opponents, and in their trail has victory followed.

Now that the season is over, it is pleasant to look back over the course of affairs, recalling the doubts and fears that beset the team's supporters early in the season, the growth of confidence and the final brilliant culmination of an unbroken series of victories. To begin with the prospects were not encouraging owing to the fact that a great part of the team had to be made up of new material. But the fact that the material was there has been effectively demonstrated, for they were an integral part of a whole, the perfection of whose work a resume of the games played will show.

The season proper opened with a comparatively easy victory over South Dakota, after the Lincoln High School and Grand Island College had been met and vanquished by scores of 23 to 6 and 64 to 0 respectively. In the game with the High School, the Lincoln boys managed by remarkably fast playing to get a man through and cross the line for a touchdown, a feat that we had all grown unaccustomed to seeing.

In their game the Grand Island boys could not stand against their heavy opponents, who had shown vast improvement after a week's hard practice. It took just two minutes and forty seconds for our team to score the first touchdown.

The first opportunity that the Cornhuskers had to try their strength against a team of note was in the game with South Dakota, played Oct. 3. In this game Nebraska's goal line was never in danger, although the men from South Dakota made a hard fight. The Cornhuskers had the ball in their opponents' territory most of the time and achieved a victory without exerting themselves.

On Oct. 13th the Cornhuskers had the satisfaction of tying a new knot in building up their string of victories. After a pleasant journey to Denver they lined up against the strong Denver University team and vanquished it—10 to 0. The altitude was a serious handicap to our team, and this was really a strong point in the enemy's favor. The field being sandy was loose, which increased the difficulty under which our men were compelled to labor, as they had been used to playing on a hard field. Fumbling by the Cornhuskers constituted—for us—a regrettable feature of the game, and it enabled the opposing team to gain advantages that it could never have otherwise secured. Yet for all that Nebraska came back a winner.

Next came the Haskell Indians—a team much vaunted, but not by any means overrated. On October 17th, the redmen lined up against the Cornhuskers, fired with the lust of battle and anxious to secure the paleface scalps. But their kind intentions did not yield fruition, and the Cornhuskers added another victory to the list that they have gained over their dusky foemen since they first came up from the south many moons ago, the score this time being 16 to 0. This game was replete with sensational runs and tackling. The Indians made their customary vigorous fight at the start, but at the last Nebraska simply walked over them. Thus the Indians were compelled to return to their tepees unavenged, and the "red peril" was once more removed from our gates.

October 24th was the day and 31 to 0 was the score of the game with Colorado. Although in the first half Colorado tried tactics calculated to tire out their opponents, they failed in their purpose. Nebraska was there as usual in the second half as strong as ever, and was soon marching steadily for their opponent's goal line. They arrived at their destination in good season and repeated the trip several times. This game was marked by good feeling exhibited both by our rooters and the visitors.

On Thursday, October 29th, the team departed for Iowa City to play one of the hardest games on the schedule. Nebraska won by a score of 17 to 6 against the strength of their opponents and the demonstrations of the crowd. The first half of the game was a hard and exciting struggle and at its end the score stood 6 to 6. To the large crowds of students that watched the bulletins here this tie score at the end of the first half augured ill for the Cornhuskers. Generally when the score is a tie at the end of the first half the team playing on its home grounds wins out. This is quite a general rule, except of course against Nebraska. The Iowans fought like demons but to no avail, and the Cornhuskers returned home weary and bruised, but happy in the triumph of victory.

The Knox team went down to defeat on our grounds on the 7th day of November, 1903, the score being 33 to 5. It was evident from the first that Knox could do nothing against the heavy Cornhuskers' line and so frequent punting took place. This was the game in which Grogan aroused the admiration and applause of Nebraska rooters by making that beautiful place kick from the 40-yd line and saved his team from being blanked. Knox had worked its way close to Nebraska's goal, through an exchange of punts as a result of which the Cornhuskers had possession of the ball near their own goal line. Grogan caught the punt that Nebraska made, making a fair catch, which entitled him to a free kick. He kicked, and the ball sailed over the bar in beautiful style. The Knox men made a good impression here and we were all sorry when they left.

The game with Kansas was an absorbing topic of discussion for some

time before it took place. The nature of this discussion and of subsequent events is well known. The game itself, played November 17th, was a contest in which the strong defensive play of the Cornhuskers and the sensational work of their captain won the day. During the course of nearly the entire game four hundred Nebraska rooters anxiously watched the proceedings, in which the Kansas men fought their way to within striking distance of our goal several times, but upon each occasion they failed at the critical moment. Bender's great run of seventy yards for a touchdown released their pent-up spirits, and the Uni. yells soared wildly aloft, as the Nebraska rooters sought to express their feelings. 6 to 0 was the score of this, one of the memorable contests in the history of football at this University.

On November 21st was played the last Saturday game of the season, and the memory of how the avalanche descended upon Bellevue is still fresh in our minds. The fast work of the visitors nearly gained them a touchdown in the first half—but something happened to prevent it. The Bellevue boys did some brilliant work, and the rooters on both sides were busy in exchanging compliments. Final score, 52 to 0.

In defeating Illinois we achieved the goal of our ambition. The Cornhuskers have made a perfect record this season—not the doubtful kind that some institutions claim who are obliged to figure a number of the games into their computation, but in each they have proven their superiority over their opponents. The game Thanksgiving was great, and more can not be said. We enjoyed meeting Illinois, and are glad to know that we will meet her again next year. And we are doubly glad that the meeting will occur here on our own athletic field; for a game with Illinois will always prove an attraction here.

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