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SHALL THE ATHLETIC FIELD BE SACRIFICED?

University Professors Express Opinions Regarding Action of Regents in Locating Physics Building Upon The Foot Ball Field.

Realizing that the action of the Board of Regents in deciding to put the new physics building on the athletic field, will, if carried out, jeopardize the future of athletics at this institution, we feel that it is necessary to examine into the matter—from a student's point of view. Feeling regarding the matter runs high in the University and the student body stands united in its opposition to any measure that may impair the welfare of athletics in this University. We are not taking an interest in this matter merely to please the Athletic Board, for if such were the case we would not do it. For whatever we did under such circumstances would be viewed with cold complacency, and we could expect no thanks, as none has ever been tendered us for what we have done in the past, although money has been paid to a down town paper for services no more valuable. Having thus defined our position, we will turn our attention to some of the views expressed regarding the present situation.

The consensus of opinion is that athletics would finally be crowded out if the precedent of putting a building on the athletic field should be made as such a condition would render a football game barely possible. Then, too, the iron-clad dictum of the Athletic Board declaring that if the new building be put on the athletic field athletics will be nil, ought to have a strong determining effect upon the Board of Regents in deterring them from insisting upon a course of action entailing such grave consequences. It is felt that the material interests of the University would in consequence suffer to such an extent that it would be worth while to hunt another location for the physics building rather than insisting upon the present location as selected.

Our reporter interviewed a large number of the faculty yesterday regarding the situation, and these were unanimous in declaring the undesirability of having the building upon the athletic field and in emphasizing the loss that would be entailed. A few of the representative views we have decided to make public, although we have upon request withheld all names in connection with these. One faculty member whose executive ability and judicial powers have been recognized in many substantial capacities, said:

"The Board of Regents is certainly at fault in locating a building upon the place contemplated. They are six years too previous in their action. There is no reason why the building can not be located on the east side of the campus between Memorial hall and the Science building. All these objections as to light are baseless. The alleged defects due to lack of light can be easily overcome by the use of a few modern conveniences and a knowledge of a few mechanical methods. Anyhow there is no need of so much of the athletic field being taken up by the building, as it can be located a great deal nearer the library, so that it would stand between the library building and a line drawn west from the southwest corner of the main hall. There would still be plenty of room left for any extension of the library that might be made, and no one's interests would suffer. I think that

the policy of chasing athletics off the University campus bad for the interests of the school, and I actually believe that such a result would be detrimental to the attendance here in the future."

Another professor said: "I can not understand what the Board of Regents means. No more severe blow could be struck at athletics than the move they seem about to make. Deprive us of our athletic field and you rob us of our athletics. The athletes won't care to wander from our gymnasium to some place out in the woods each day to toil for the honor and glory of an institution that has driven them off of its campus. The consciousness of being on University soil and under the shadow of the buildings of the institution that he loves, inspires many a roofer to sonorous effort in helping his own team win the victory. Now to be practical, I don't believe there is any strict necessity of putting the building on the athletic field at all. In view of the other places about the campus that had been suggested for good locations, the news that the building would be located on the athletic field came to us as a shock and a disappointment. I would very much regret to see the building put there, but I would still more regret seeing athletics driven out before the necessary time arrives."

This view is certainly as emphatic and as earnest, as the preceding one was practical and sound. Another professor was only too anxious to express his views upon the subject and made the following statement:

"I believe the Athletic Board means what it says when it declares that athletics will be killed if the physics building is erected on the athletic field. Yet we ought to adjust ourselves to that very easily. All that would be necessary would be to get a hen-coop and set it in R street with stakes driven down around it so that the passing wagons wouldn't run over it and there let our athletic warriors fight it out with their foes, while the bell in the top of the main hall proudly proclaims their victories to the world. Or why couldn't the boys go out to the state farm and struggle for honor and fame with the cows for spectators? Now do put that in. Here's my views:

"The construction of such a building on the athletic field would destroy our athletics. A football game can not be played to advantage in such cramped quarters that would be left, and rather than attempt to adjust themselves to a shrunken field, I think the men would give up in disgust. Then too, as stated in the Nebraskan yesterday, I honestly think that our attendance would diminish, as students in deciding upon what institution they prefer to attend, would in most instances prefer to attend to one where athletics flourished. You'll find this true in almost any case you care to examine into.

"I believe that Nebraska has a great future in athletics and any move to injure such bright prospects regrets me greatly. We must keep our field clear, if we hope to realize upon all the potentialities within our grasp.

"We've got to brace ourselves and stand firm or else athletics will receive a blow from which it never can recover."

Another professor said the difficulty could only be overcome by putting the building on the east side of the campus and leaving the athletic field clear.

"We can not get around the fact," he said, "that athletics will be a dead member in this institution if the building is put where it is at present in-

tended to be located. As pointed out already a football game would be an exceedingly difficult matter. Then, too, track team work would be out of the question. The cadet battalion needs a large open field to maneuver in, as the other spaces on the campus are entirely too small. No, I would prefer to see the building located elsewhere."

With these views University people in general sympathize and they all agree that athletics would suffer, unless the physics building is kept off the athletic field. No one has any ill-feeling against the Board of Regents. Each is more concerned over the welfare of athletics. All look with disfavor upon any measures aiming to drive athletics off the campus.

Athletics at Nebraska has done much to bring our institution into prominence, as her advance in material growth has been accompanied by progress in athletic standing. The field that has been the scene of so many glorious scenes in the past, and which is remembered with fondness by so many of our alumni, some of whom have battled on it, is threatened with intrusion that would ruin it. The very existence of athletics is threatened, and unless the proper action is taken by the Board of Regents this important branch will suffer greatly or be abandoned altogether. Such a condition would cause the most profound regret to all loyal University students, faculty and alumni, and we hope that it may be forestalled.

GALAXY OF GAMES

Minnesota Wins and Wesleyan Beaten. Other Games.

Nebraska suffered a crushing defeat at Minneapolis Thursday night after they seemed to have clinched the game in the first half. The Minnesota team had been unable to practice for over a week on account of a "circus" in their armory, and perhaps this lack of practice was what enabled Nebraska to gain the lead in beginning. On the whole, this was far the best showing made against the Gophers in the last four years. The first half ended 12 to 9 in Nebraska's favor, but Minnesota started the fireworks in the first minute of the second half, and before the whistle blew had piled up sixteen more goals to their credit. Every man on the Gopher team threw two or more goals, while Hagensick did two-thirds of the scoring for the Cornhuskers. The final score was 42 to 21 in favor of Minnesota. The game was remarkably clean and fast, only three points being made from the foul line during the entire game. This sort of a game is quite a relief to the spectator after witnessing one which is being stopped every half minute by the foul whistle.

The other university teams had better luck on the same night, when they played the Wesleyan teams. The second team played the Wesleyan Juniors a very fast game and defeated them 40 to 19. The first half ended 30 to 12, and in the next Krake gave way to Mathewson, while Milek took Tyner's place. Miller at forward, Ludden at guard and Noyes at center played the game through.

The faculty game was much closer and more exciting. When the whistle blew for the end of the second half

the score was a tie, 18 to 18. Wesleyan made another point a minute later from a foul, but Nebraska followed it up with a goal from field, and this won the game, 20 to 19.

The interclass games have been definitely fixed for next Monday evening at 8 o'clock. This date has been fixed with the view of preventing any conflicts with other university affairs, and there is no reason why there should not be a large crowd out. There will be two games, the Senior-Freshmen and the Sophomore-Junior. The line-up of the teams will be:

Seniors: Myers and Ludden, forwards; Noyes, center; Tyner and Flansburg, guards.

Juniors: Sweeley and Brown, forwards; Mathew, center; Anderson and Clark, guards.

Sophomores: Krake and Mathewson, forwards; Clark, center; Hrubesky and Winchester, guards.

Freshmen: Miller and Swan, forwards; Mosher, center; Lott and Hill, guards.

The game which will be most hotly contested will be the Senior-Freshman. The Seniors have the entire second team, and the Freshmen have a bunch of men fresh from the different high school teams. Miller and Lott are from the same high school team and so play together remarkably well. Mosher at center does very good work, and his jumping will easily counterbalance Noyes' height.

The Sophomores look for an easy victory in their game. Three of the last year's champion team are back, while Winchester is an old Lincoln high school man, and plays a fine game at guard.

The Junior team is a new aggregation, only one of last year's team being back.

The second team men met in the locker-room Thursday afternoon and elected R. E. Noyes, '04, captain and Ludden, '04, manager.

Manager Bell has signed a game with the baseball team of the University of South Dakota. The game is to be played in Lincoln on April 20.

The baseball men will practice on the field this afternoon if the weather permits. Yesterday quite a number took advantage of the warm day and loosened up for half an hour.

Post Office Closed Monday.

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 19, 1904. (On Monday, February 22, 1904, Washington's birthday, all departments of the post-office, including Station "A," will be open until 10 a. m. The postoffice and Station "A" will then close for the day. EDWARD R. SIZER, P. M.

Washington Birthday Service.

Monday evening, the 22d of February, a Washington's Birthday Memorial service will be held in the First Baptist church, corner 14th and K streets. The addresses will be given by Mr. Fred Shepard, on "Washington, the Man," and by Prof. H. W. Caldwell of the University, on "Washington, the Citizen." Mr. Shepard is an eloquent and interesting speaker, and Prof. Caldwell is so well known that all University students will want to hear him. The admission is free, and a cordial invitation is extended to all.

Let us present you with a clothes brush with our compliments. Riggs' Pharmacy.

Sam's Cafe. The only place in the city to get the famous "Little Gem Hot Waffles." Special service for ladies.

Go to the Burr barber shop if you want a first class shave, hair-cut or massage. Everything first-class and up-to-date. Shannon and Demmick, proprietors.