

A Resume of the Season

By JOHN D. RICE, Ex-Editor of the Daily Nebraskan

The passing of another season adds a new and interesting chapter to the history of football in this institution. To the team belongs the credit of making a splendid showing against odds that would have proved utterly demoralizing, had it not been for the courageous and determined spirit with which our men were endowed. In both victory and defeat alike they fought consistently and gallantly for the honor of their institution and no one can deny that they did their duty well. Crippled, but not dispirited, the team returned from a contest so unnatural in its character and so fraught with hardship and actual suffering as to cause a feeling almost amounting to sympathetic horror, and set itself grimly to the task of overcoming the baleful effects of its exhausting and trying experience, and of fighting its way through the long, hard schedule of games before it.

Few colleges can boast of a closer relationship between the student body and the football team than has existed here at Nebraska during the season of 1904. The welfare of our players was the first consideration in the minds of all. The reception recorded them upon their return from Colorado and Minneapolis, are events that will shine in the annals of football in this institution, and serve to depict the character and spirit of a student body which the tidings of defeat could not oppress. So was the team given unqualified and merited assurance that the student body was with it heart and soul, and the effect was visible in the games that followed. This attitude, coupled with the wonderful recuperative powers shown by the team, was a factor that will make the season of 1904 a memorable one.

The conditions under which the team was obliged to work must be taken as they were. Few can realize the delicate considerations that in football may tip the scales favorably or adversely, and a selfish view is too often the result of hastily drawn conclusions. The old theory that a team should be discredited if it does not win every game that it plays, no matter what the conditions may be, has long ago been relegated to the rear. There are other points that enter into the accounting and these have already been emphasized.

The opening of the season was devoid of cheerful prospects. Some of the most efficient parts of the powerful machine of the year before were gone and new parts had to be fitted. In the work of reconstruction new and untried material had to be used, and here it is well to state that it stood the strain in an admirable manner. But the loss of several seasoned veterans, each one of whom was a tower of strength in the team, and the additional discouragement from the same source later in the year were severely felt. Yet the tale of the Cornhuskers' record during the season of 1904 is one in which must be recited deeds of

pluck, spirit, pertinacity, and determination that cannot fail to appeal to anyone capable of appreciating these qualities.

The usual preliminary games were played with Grand Island college and the Lincoln high school, and an opportunity afforded to see the new line-up in action. In the game September 17, Grand Island was overwhelmed. But the Lincoln team played a good game and held the Cornhuskers to their task, although the latter, after they had once got started, had no difficulty in trespassing into the sacred precincts behind the goal line defended by the high school boys. 17 to 0 was the score.

Grinnell college, the first heavy team to be met, was beaten by a score of 46 to 0. The Cornhusker play was speedy and aggressive, and betokened the future development of great strength.

Fighting to the last with failing breath and reeling senses the Cornhuskers went down to defeat at Boulder October 8. With powerful opponents to face and with the only hope of victory placed in the conservation of their strength for the last stages of the game and overwrought in their gallant attempts to overcome conditions that their constitutions could not endure, they stemmed what might have proved an avalanche to many strong teams, being finally defeated by the narrow margin of a single touchdown. Yet they were allowed to feel no sense of crushing defeat; for the whole university, a sympathetic chord in the hearts of all having been touched, hastened to do homage to the warriors, who by their gallant defense shed glory upon the Scarlet and Cream.

Appalled not by the tidings of defeat, but by the harrowing experience that our team had undergone, the student body was deeply affected. Spontaneously aroused they went forth in united purpose to greet the team upon its return, and with lusty cheers and welcoming hands they gave the returning Cornhuskers a reception that fully bespoke appreciation of their gallant and superhuman struggles in which they were handicapped by Nature herself. It was a triumph for the enlightened views that have come to obtain in football.

With three of its men nursing injuries, the Cornhuskers went to Omaha and easily defeated the Creighton team October 15, by a score of 39 to 0. The game was replete with sensational runs and clever tackling. The student excursion upon this occasion was a fine success, and the Vinton street park was the scene of an outburst of Cornhusker enthusiasm that awakened the neighborhood from its apathy.

The Knox team came and went, leaving behind the usual good impression. On October 22 the men from Galesburg clashed with the Cornhuskers and were borne down to defeat by the aggressiveness and speed of the play against them. Knox played a plucky game and held the esteem of the Nebraska rooters.

A week later occurred the great contest that had been looked forward to for the past two years. Great was the surprise caused by the showing made by Nebraska against the great Minnesota team that shared with Michigan the supremacy of the west. No other team in the Missouri valley—we make the statement in full recognition of claims that might be made—could have

twice crossed the Gopher goal line and held that awful battering ram for only three touchdowns, and on the Minnesota field at that. The end of the game found our men fighting as vigorously as at the start, and it was the verdict of the Minnesota team rooters that Nebraska played the pluckiest game ever witnessed on the Minnesota field. The reception attendant upon the home-coming of the team, almost equalled the great jubilation two years ago, when the Gopher scalp was brought home as a trophy.

The Iowa game was looked forward to with apprehension, coming as it did only a week after the great game at Minneapolis, and it seemed doubtful that our team would be in good form after its long trip. But all doubts were dispelled by the actual issue of the game itself. Iowa played a good game, and her physical condition was no better than Nebraska's. The score, 17 to 6, was the exact duplicate of the score at Iowa City last year. The fact that Iowa had a touchdown at the end of the first half and Nebraska had none, gave an alarming aspect to the

game, but the sufficient work was done in the second half to set things right. This game was featured by the long end runs made by the Cornhuskers.

But as a result of this game Nebraska sustained a staggering blow in the loss of Benedict, whose injuries compelled his absence from the team. This was a misfortune at a critical time, when the Cornhuskers should have been in the best condition to meet the strong Haskell Indian team at Kansas City. It was a decidedly weakened line-up that clashed with the superb Haskell team November 12, and the defeat that fell to our lot might well have been expected under the circumstances. The team work and the great individual work of the Indians were features. But the Cornhuskers showed the same old reluctance about yielding ground and only one touchdown was scored against them. Two place kicks, beautifully executed, boosted the Haskell score, although Bender's effort along that line was hard to duplicate. Score 14 to 6.

Bellevue came and played her annual game. The Cornhuskers were given some good practice and the rooters a chance to air out their lungs in preparation for Illinois. The score was 51 to 0.

And now Illinois!



MANAGER E. F. DAVIS

CAP'S MOTHER

By LETA STETTER

The fellows always liked Cap, but it wasn't till his senior year that the crowd decorated him with the pin. You see it was this way. Cap's a dandy fellow; always has been and always will be, but when he came up to school it was plainer than preaching that he was fresh from the farm. Work! well I rather guess yes. It was in Math class that Cliff got onto him and introduced him to the crowd. Cliff had a sure enough crush on him all right, and was for decorating him with the pin then and there. When Cliff went in for anybody, the crowd usually went too, but this time there was nothing doing with the candidate.

As I said before, you see it was this way. Bailey was in school then, and Math and Physics and shabby clothes weren't just exactly in Bailey's line. It was his Soph. year too, and that made him worse, so when Cliff broached the subject to him, Bailey turned him down cold. He said that no doubt Cliff saw the beautiful soul beneath the rough exterior, but that he never was of penetrating disposi-

tion himself, and that as far as he was concerned there was nothing doing. I was there when he said it, and Cliff didn't answer, that wasn't Cliff's way. When he saw it was no use, he just shut up like a clam.

I was a Freshman that year, and Cliff's roommate. Cliff was a Senior with the interests of the frat at heart.

That night at supper he jollied up as usual, but when we were up in our room digging in on the next day's stunts, he solemnly took off his eyeshade and said:

"Look here, sonny, I'd hate to see this frat ever run to clothes and money, and I'd like to see Jim Burton in it. He's the right sort. I can't do it because Bailey'll be here as long as I am, but you can do it after I'm gone."

I guess there wasn't anything I wouldn't have done for Cliff. He's a Prof. at Columbia now.

So that's how the year after Bailey graduated, Cap. was decorated with our frat pin. That's the year he was elected captain of the team too, and