

to the facts, that they were not aware of the class record of this player when their criticisms were uttered. The practice of offering inducements to players of note upon the teams of other colleges had taken so deep a root and the habit of bringing men to the university to play upon teams who had no intention of becoming students, and who often left at the close of the season, had become so confirmed that the establishment of a scholarship rule or test became necessary. The board has insisted, and will continue to insist, that every player on every athletic team shall be first and foremost a real student of the university. In consequence of the rules adopted for this purpose, two or three men were ruled off the foot ball team last year. These men at the time were not in attendance upon any department of the university, and have never since been seen within its precincts. This year one man was ruled off for the same reason, although he had justly acquired the reputation of being one of our best players. The action of the board in this case amounted simply to a requirement that before continuing to play he should become a student in the institution. That this action was abundantly justified was shown by the fact that he refused to meet such requirement, and finding that study in the university would be required of him as well as a reputation as a player left at once. But the rule has not been so strictly enforced as to work undue hardship. This has been illustrated during the past season in the case of two players, who have not been at all backward in criticism of the board and its policy, who would have been barred by anything approaching a strict interpretation of the rules, but were treated with leniency because they expressed an intention of making good their standing at the close of the season. In the judgment of the board, this leniency was unwise, and it will not be repeated. We mention it only to show that we have tried not to be captious or unreasonable. The immediate results of our action may have tended to weaken the team during the past season. With this we have no concern, because the board is not established to procure players, but to insure genuine amateur teams. While we have endeavored, and shall endeavor in every proper way, to maintain the best team possible, considering the finances and resources at our command, we cannot allow any desire to bring forth a winning team to betray us into a violation of our trust. Whatever else may be said, a team has been maintained composed wholly of men who are unquestionable students of the university. With an attendance of 1,200 or 1,400 male students, it should be an easy matter to secure enough good material in the university itself to turn out a winning team. In this way we shall be able to bring up a strong body of players in the institution, and shall not be compelled to depend upon and offer inducements to players from other institutions, who come here and bar out bona fide students from our teams.

"It would seem that a careful consideration of these matters should cause the student body to recognize the justice of the policy adopted by the board and to assist in the difficult task before it. That this is not wholly the case we record with regret. During the season just past a reporter on the Evening News, aided by a coterie of persons connected with the university, not all of them, however, genuine students therein, has made use of his position to foment discord and create prejudice against the board by charging it with favoritism and high-handed action. The charge of favoritism has

recently been pressed upon the ground that a comparatively large number of players are members of fraternities, and it has been stated that large numbers of students capable of playing are not permitted to play because they are not members of some fraternity. It is significant that nearly every man who has been ruled off our athletic teams in the past two years has been a member, actual or pledged, of some fraternity. There is nothing novel in the circumstance that there are many capable players who are not found upon our teams. The same condition has existed for years, despite every endeavor to remedy it. Most of our students are largely dependent upon their own exertions for their support while at the university, and many an able-bodied student has no time to devote to athletic sports, in which he might make a reputation had he the opportunity. We have used every effort to bring out these men and to give them a place on our teams. Moreover, the board does not pretend to say who shall play, but, in the absence of disputes, interferes only to enforce general rules determining who shall not play. The board has exerted, and will continue to exert, its whole force in every possible way to prevent favoritism of any kind with no less zeal than that which it brings to bear to repress professionalism. It should be said further that the coach during the past season was not a member of any fraternity and that his election was insisted upon vehemently at the time it was made by those who are now making charges of favoritism. These charges come from a small minority which has been in opposition to the board in past years as well. So virulent has this minority become in its attitude towards the existing manage-

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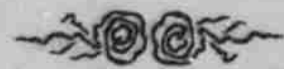
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