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PERTAINING TO ATHLETICS

A Discussion of Some of the Alleged Reasons for the Deficit for the Foot Ball Season.

With the cheerful prospect of the next two months of athletics being rounded out with a handsome deficit of \$500, members of the Athletic Board have begun to look back upon the showing for the football season and to inquire into the causes of the financial loss that is shown. As a result some very substantial causes for inquiry have been uncovered. A glance at some of the items is sufficient to cause surprise to those who are informed on the football situation. In some instances it is evident that someone has been unduly recompensed for duties performed and supplies furnished while in others it is plain that great extravagance has been practiced.

The training table expenses for the season amounted to \$1,210. The sum paid by the players for board at the training table amounted to \$171.25. Wherefore this great discrepancy? Allowing as a liberal limit a margin of \$200 or \$300 above the amount paid in it is evident that a greater amount of money was drawn out of the treasury ostentatiously for this purpose than was ever paid out in meeting expenses actually occurring. The board for each player was \$3.00 per week. There is generally a maximum of sixteen men who eat at the training table. The table seldom runs longer than eight weeks. Then allowing all of these maximum ratings the cost of running the season should not be over \$384, if ordinary thrift be employed. Of course it is granted that the players need certain kinds of food prepared in especial ways, but this as a rule entails distinctiveness of taste, and not any greatly increased expense. The amount paid in by the players amounted to \$171.25. A balance of \$212.75 of expenses to the board is left. \$1,210 is given as the expense of running the training table. Deducting the \$171.25 paid by the players there is left a balance of \$1,038.75 for expense. Why then should \$1,038.75 be paid out of the treasury for a purpose for which \$212.75 should have sufficed?

This is allowing the most liberal estimates. In fact these are liberal to an unnecessary degree. It must be remembered that the training table was not full during the entire season, as men were only sent there after proving their ability to play on the team, and for some of these the opportunity did not come until well along in the season. Eight weeks is a very liberal allowance for time also. The actual expense is entirely disproportionate to the amount claimed. Who, then, got the difference?

Suppose we put it in a milder form and for convenience grant that it did actually cost \$1,210 to run the training table. Why then was this awful extravagance permitted, when less than \$500 would have been sufficient?

Another point is the unnecessary outlay for material and equipment. As an example, sixty-five footballs were purchased for the present season, and it was expected that a large number of these would be left over for next season. But it transpires that none of these are available, and the question arises, "What has become of them?"

This point is explained by the fact that the players secretly appropriate these whenever the opportunity is presented, as they like to have them for souvenirs. This would not be so objectionable if the condition of the treasury could afford it, but it is evident that money is lost right here in the property carried off, which it would

take at least a hundred and fifty dollars to replace.

Again demands are made for sweaters and the like, that are altogether out of place. A good sweater can not be procured for nothing, and when several extra ones are handed out in the course of the season, the total amounts to considerable. Other extravagances creep in, small in themselves, but helping to swell the total of expense.

A prominent member of the faculty, who is well posted on the situation, said to a Nebraskan reporter yesterday:

"I can not account for the sewing graft and extravagance that have crept in, in connection with football. The cost of running the training table must certainly have been less than stated. Three dollars a week for each man ought to meet all expenses, and I can not account for the awful margin remaining."

"Then, too, there are so many other expenses—unnecessary to my mind—that creep in through lack of proper precaution. Some of the players are exacting, and when one of them makes a demand he always expects it to be granted. If a player asks for a sweater the manager finds it best to grant it or that man will no longer be his friend, and it is necessary that harmony exist between the manager and the members of the team. The expenditures for equipment are enormous, and ought to be curtailed."

"The board must economize in its expenditures or it will get beyond its depth. Already a deficit of \$500 exists, although there was over \$800 left over from last year. Athletics here have been subsisting off the \$4,200 brought back from Minnesota last year. It will cost an additional \$500 to run through spring athletics, and when the next football season begins there will be a \$1,000 deficit to carry. There was \$500 lost on the Kansas trip, which helped to put things to the bad."

"There is another point that deserves emphasis. Lincoln will not support the kind of a team that we have got unless we get down to the level and curtail our expenses, which I believe can be done. Nebraska's expenses this year have mounted up altogether too high, which can only be accounted for by a combination of graft and extravagance. The outlay for equipment compares well with that made for the big conference teams whose incomes are vastly greater than Nebraska's. Such an outlay as has been made here is only justifiable in cities like Minneapolis or Chicago, where there are large masses of population, from which to draw the crowds."

"Nebraska can not afford to continue the pace that she has been travelling. A watch dog will have to be set over the treasury, in order that the money may be rightly and judiciously expended. The present deficit is bad enough, and a system that would tend to in-

crease it can not be allowed to continue in operation. The bills will have to be left unpaid for the present and a stand-off secured from the merchants, or else the faculty members of the athletic board will have to give their notes for the amounts outstanding. Neither course is very desirable, but one or the other is necessary. We must be more careful. If we are, I do not believe that such big deficits will occur as the one that occurred for the last football season. All graft and extravagance must be weeded out. Both are practiced, and athletics can not prosper until we get down to business and do things right."

This is quite a detailed and thorough depicting of matters as they actually are. All extravagances, and most of all, graft, must be cut out. Unnecessary expense will kill any business, and it will prove disastrous to athletics here, unless curtailed. Every sensible opportunity to save should be taken advantage of. Nebraska is willing to supply the actual needs of the players and equip them comfortably, but she can not well do more. She would like to though, as she always has been as liberal as her means would allow, and even beyond this.

Our students are willing to support athletics for the sake of doing the cause good. But they can not bear to see their loyal and liberal-minded efforts put forth for the fostering of extravagance that can not be afforded and for the benefit of individuals who are apparently unscrupulous enough to run their graft whenever possible. It is all right to have mass meetings and appeal to the students for help, but at the same time it would be just as well to be more careful with the finances.

The Nebraskan has always supported athletics as a principle and always expects to, but we believe that any unsavory conduct in connection with this important branch should be dilated upon. All graft must be weeded out as well as extravagances, or we will find ourselves facing a situation that will not be fair to our eyes. We have not said all that can be said, and we may find it convenient to add another chapter or two in support of our stand that steps toward a reform in athletic matters must be taken.

Delta Tau Delta gave a very enjoyable informal dancing party last night at Walsh hall. University colors, palms and Delt colors were used in decoration. Walt's orchestra furnished the music and light refreshments were served between times. Some forty couples, including representatives of other fraternities attended. Colonel and Mrs. Bills chaperoned the party.

Chapin Bros., Florists, 127 So. 12th.

The big spring opening of millinery is now in progress at the Famous. How about that Easter hat?

Special rate to students at Hendry's.

Big Reduction.—Sanderson's Sale.

Wright Drug Co., 117 No. 11th, phone 313.

Box of cigars given away every day at Powell's Oliver theatre building. The Whitebreast Co., at 1106 O St., is the place to buy coal.

VARSIITY WINS OUT

University Girls Easily Win Out in the Tournament.

The first game was called at 8:20. The first match was between the city Y. W. C. A. and the Wesleyan Girls. In this half the Y. W. C. A. girls had an easy time, allowing their opponents to score but one goal. The half ended 8 to 2. In the second half the Wesleyan team did not score at all, while the Y. W. C. A. piled up 20 points, making a total of 28 to 2.

The first half between the first and second University teams ended 27 to 0 for the first team. This scoring was due largely to the difference in size, the first team girls being with one exception larger than their opponents. In the second half the first team made 10 points to 4 by the second. In this half Miss Everett played guard, while Miss Huse took her place at forward. It was due to her good work at guard that the Varsity did not score more in this half. For the Varsity Miss Jansa threw eight goals, Miss Shinbur four, and Miss Scott 6, with one free goal. For the second team Miss Everett and Miss Pillsbury were easily the stars.

After these two games the losers played a consolation game of one half, which ended in a score of 12 to 0 in favor of the Second University team.

The Varsity and Y. W. C. A. played a half after this to decide the championship. The Varsity easily won, by a score of 16 to 0.

This score does not show the relative merits of the two teams, however, but the victory for the Varsity was certainly a splendid one. They will now devote themselves to getting ready for Minnesota, and certainly have a fine record to sustain against the time that they meet the Northerners.

State Farm Notes.

Director E. A. Burnett returned Friday morning from a business trip to the sub-station at North Platte, Neb.

The department of chemistry has recently put in a new nitrogen extractor. This will greatly facilitate the work of testing the various grains for nitrogen content.

The second floor of the new shops building has been fitted up as a basket ball field for practice work. No match games as yet have been played.

Mr. A. J. Reedy, formerly a student here, recently furnished a post-graduate course at the dairy school, University of Wisconsin. He now has charge of the new dairy barn.

The botany department will have the use of the old greenhouse south of the experiment station building as soon as the horticultural people move into their new building. The work in plant physiology will hereafter be done in the greenhouse.

The department of chemistry has conducted an experiment with sulphur dips. This was done to determine the amount of sulphur that can be held in solution; also to ascertain the extent to which animal dips can be diluted and still contain the sulphur required by the government formula.

A bulletin on pastures, meadows and animal forage crops has been completed and will soon be issued by the experiment station. As this bulletin is of unusual interest it will also be printed by the U. S. department of agriculture.

Roy Dumont is spending a few days at his home in Omaha.

Don Cameron's lunch counter for good service.

Senior Prom

APRIL 8, LINCOLN HOTEL

Walt's full Orchestra