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# Retrospect and Prospect

By PROF. J. I. WYER

Coach Booth has been with us five years. In this time football at Nebraska has gone forward by leaps and bounds.

The big Princeton coach found an eleven that had been, in 1899, defeated by every team in the Missouri valley. Run over by Kansas, smothered by Missouri, the sport of all the Iowa colleges, unheard of or inconsidered in Big Nine circles, Nebraska closed the season of 1899 with but one significant victory to her credit.

At that time we could seat but 600 people on our own field, and these accommodations were always ample. We

"Nine," have defeated the Conference teams of Illinois, Iowa, Northwestern and Minnesota, and have beaten several times over every western non-conference team with any pretensions whatever for championship honors.

This record is entirely due to the work of one man, Coach Booth, and the term of Booth's coaching at Nebraska (we earnestly hope it is not yet ended) will always be glorious history in our football annals.

The season of 1904 has not ended with quite the usual success, but a careful analysis of the victories and defeats indicates that the latter have, in every case except the Minnesota game, been directly traceable to a heavy schedule constructed with bad judgment and calling for too many games away from home.

The coaching has been as good as ever, the team has responded satisfactorily, an offense has been developed which has piled up a larger total score than in any previous year, but no other team in the country can maintain championship form and snappy win-or-die play through a schedule calling for Minnesota, Iowa, Haskell and Illinois in successive weeks, with two of these games away from home. The lesson of this season is obvious and should be kept firmly in mind in planning next year's season. First and foremost, let us have Coach Booth back again. If he coaches anywhere next year let it be here. The only valid reason for his non-appearance on Nebraska field next year should be his definite withdrawal from the gridiron.

Then don't tie his hands with a preposterous and unthinkable schedule. Hard games we want, of course, but not all in a bunch, and we want them at home whenever possible. Look at Minnesota's schedule. The team never

leaves Northrop field 'till the weather drives them south. Would the Gophers go up into the Colorado mountains for a game? Never. Why should Nebraska? There is no money in it, there is little honor in it, there is no team in Colorado that we care very much about beating, and once in a while we will find a team that, with the high altitude, will place an entirely unnecessary and misleading defeat on the wrong side of our score. It is an honor to beat Nebraska and we cannot afford to leave the air behind us and give any team in Colorado the chance to do it year after year. The odds are all against us there, and our scores are always small. Then the Indian game. Nebraska brought home \$800 as proceeds of the game. Lincoln people put \$1,800 into the excursion. Net loss \$1,000.

We would have made certainly no less money at home and would have saved \$1,800 paid to the railroads, and much more to the point, our chances for winning would have been much better here. Lincoln has shown conclusively in the past four years that she will patronize liberally a good article of football, and we have found now that no Missouri river town will do this. So let's stay at home.

It has cost us a victory or two this year to learn these lessons, but they seem to stand out clear and sharp in our season's record.

Let our athletic management profit thereby, let them secure Coach Booth for 1905; this alone will attract players and guarantee the allegiance and confidence of all old players and then let the student body be constantly on the alert through the entire year to say a good word and do a good turn which will bring good men here to school and bring them out on the gridiron when they get here.



ASSISTANT COACH WESTOVER

## THE GAME TODAY

Upon today's contest with Illinois depends in a large degree Nebraska's football rating for the year. The season just closing has been one of the most peculiar in many ways for the Cornhusker team, of any that it has ever played. Opening full of brilliant promise, with a large nucleus of old men on hand from which to develop a strong team, an experienced captain, a famous coach, and a schedule declared to be the best ever secured for a school outside the "Big Nine," the season has, after all, been somewhat disappointing, almost entirely owing to the poor arrangement of that same brilliant schedule.

But a review of the season is almost needless to a close follower of the provided for the sake of reference, in another column of this magazine. In spite of the racking contests which the team went through during the middle of the season, however, the almost uninterrupted rest of the past two weeks has served to put the men in excellent condition—the best, in fact, that they have enjoyed since the memorable game with Minnesota. With much basis of truth, it is almost universally believed that Captain Benedict's absence from the Haskell Indian game, brought defeat to Nebraska. Barring accidents, he will appear again to-day. The importance of this cannot be overestimated. At the close of the season, after a man has become thoroughly

acquainted with every man on his team, and has gained the confidence and affection of each of them, his return on the eve of a crucial contest cannot fail to inspire confidence in them as much as his absence would tend to make them uncertain of themselves.

This is much, but what Captain Benedict may be able to personally accomplish in the contest, will contribute even more, perhaps, to the result. Half the strength of Nebraska's defense lies in "Bennie's" good, right foot. With it in the game, the Indians might never have got near enough Nebraska's goal to kick those two splendid goals, which won the game for them. With his interference, Johnny Bender would surely have scored one touchdown, and Allah only knows how many more. The return of Benedict, then, adds half to Nebraska's strength. With Benedict and Bender together again, how can the Illini hope for victory from them?

But, comparing with last year's wonderful record, Illinois has shown wonderful strength this year. Beaten in 1903 by every team of importance, with which she played, she nevertheless did as risky a thing as could be imagined, with splendid results. It is one thing to change coaches in the strength of success—to discard an entire system of coaching for another, almost untried one, and that in the  
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### Improvements in Skating Rink

The Auditorium Skating Rink has been closed temporarily, but will be open to the public again today. New hardwood floors were laid and several new improvements were installed for the comfort and convenience of patrons.

When open again, the management will be able to offer the people of Lincoln an opportunity to enjoy the sport of roller skating in one of the best appointed and best equipped rinks in the west.

The strictest propriety is observed at all times, and anyone whose conduct is not the best, will be not be admitted.

An interesting program is rendered during the intermission both afternoon and evening. Ladies are admitted free every afternoon. Admission in the evening, 15 cents. Gentlemen, admission, 20 cents. Rent of roller skates, 20 cents. Come and spend a pleasant hour.

always went away from home to play our Thanksgiving game; not a seat on the field was covered or had ever been "reserved;" a training table was utterly unknown; a \$500-guarantee to a strong team was madness; organized rooting was not in evidence, and about the only regular feature about our football season was the inevitably recurring annual deficit.

In the past five years Nebraska has lost but six games, three of which were to Minnesota, admittedly one of the very strongest western teams.

Two seasons have been closed without the loss of a game, and in 1902, under John Westover's second captaincy, not a single point was scored against Nebraska, while the scalps of Minnesota and Northwestern adorned our belt. During these five years we have maintained an easy supremacy in western football outside of the "Big