

The Daily Nebraskan

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Editorial Remarks

MR. BUCKNER'S LETTER.

Mr. Buckner's letter, which is published in another column of this paper, is surely commendable as a frank and open explanation of the causes which resulted in the football schedule of the season which has just closed. The Nebraskan sees no reason for denying that the arrangement of the games this year was by no means a perfect one, or that it had much to do with two of the defeats which Nebraska has suffered. But that the schedule was the result of poor judgment or mere carelessness, Mr. Buckner fully disproves.

We believe that the conditions which faced the athletic board at the close of the season last year are fully realized by all close followers of Nebraska's football career. With the east more or less afraid of us, the west snapping peevishly at our heels, and a growing deficit in our treasury, the outlook was as discouraging, perhaps, as it has been for many years. The Nebraskan believes that Mr. Buckner's ability, energy and clear-sightedness is fully exemplified by what was accomplished this year. And while our defeats must be traced back to the arrangement of the schedule, the fact still remains that we are more prominent in the public eye today than ever before, that we are again on our feet financially, and that our athletic future is bright with promise. And The Nebraskan, for one, is glad to accord to Mr. Buckner his due share of praise for the attainment of this state of affairs.

Both in signed articles and editorials The Nebraskan has called for a suspension of the Colorado and Haskell games. But, it has never been our intention to comment disparagingly upon the scheduling of these games for this year. They were regarded by everyone as necessary to the finances of the football management, and were expected, especially in the case of Haskell, to aid very materially in clearing the debt of the athletic board. Frankly, we shall be sorry to see either of these games scheduled again, but the condition of affairs last year, without doubt, would

have justified their being taken on, whether necessitated by previous contract or not.

Mr. Buckner need not feel that his efforts are unappreciated at Nebraska. We may assure him that the contrary is the case, and that he will be remembered for many years to come as an ideal football manager.

DEFENDS SCHEDULE.

(Continued from page One.)

succeeding the Minnesota game, and the Haskell game immediately following. The first of these was more potentially unfortunate than the latter, though the issues of the two games have caused attention to be directed only to the Indian game. Had Iowa defeated us, as she might well have done after our Minnesota game, it would have been quite fairly chargeable, at least in part, to the schedule. Had our plucky captain been in the game at Kansas City, attention would not have been called to our 'unthinkable' schedule, but the management and board would have been congratulated on their ticket office forethought; but the schedule would have been risky just the same. One word explains both games. For two months we were positively assured Minnesota could not take us on. They were frank and friendly but we were 'too heavy for a light game, and not in the Big Nine for a championship game.' We then set to work to do the best we could without her. The Indians were no longer a drawing card in Lincoln. We had beaten them too often. The 1903 receipts were only one-half the 1902 receipts. Something had to be done, for though Lincoln is generous, we knew from experience that the Iowa and Illinois games alone could not balance the ledger. Then another 'idea' seized the board and management. We would try Kansas City. Mr. Wyer, as football chairman, had been extremely anxious to see the Kansas-Nebraska game tried there, and again last year the board, driven by necessity, deemed the experiment advisable; it seemed to all of us a possible money maker, and the date was agreed upon. Iowa had but one date to offer, November 5th, and we accepted. Then to the surprise at all, Minnesota offered October 29th with no other date possible. When we were planning the other dates we had no means of knowing that neither Michigan nor Chicago would play Minnesota, and thus make possible a Minnesota-Nebraska game. We had every reasonable ground for thinking the contrary. We could not cancel Iowa, we could not pass the Minnesota opportunity. Were we to break with the Indian agreement, violating our pledge as well as giving up what was thought to be the pot of gold at the end of the Kansas City rainbow? The board thought not. Had they known we would suffer defeat they would not have been justified from a moral as well as financial standpoint in cancelling the date. An occasional defeat is better than bankruptcy and a heavy schedule is to be preferred to slipping back to our place of a few years ago in the football catalogue of the country. It is hard to accept defeat after three years of victory, and the explanation of a 'preposterous' schedule is 'convenient and indeed not unreasonable, but it is only fear to suggest the considerations which have confronted Nebraska in the past and which must confront her for some time in the future.

"When we, like Minnesota in her Michigan game, can have 30,000 people at \$2 per, and not a Thanksgiving game at that, then indeed will we also, quite happily, I imagine, 'stay at home until driven south by the climate.'"

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