

The Daily Nebraskan

Vol. VII. No. 46.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, LINCOLN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1907.

Price 10 Cents.

THE FORWARD PASS

By WALTER H. ECKERSALL

Practically all of the leading teams in the West showed a marked improvement in the development of the forward pass over last year. That the play is a great improvement over the old-style mass play goes without saying. There was nothing in the old style game to induce a light, agile man to come out for a team, for he knew that weight had the call over agility. Now it is different. A light man has an equal chance of making good with the heavyweight, whose chances are somewhat diminished unless he is extraordinarily fast for his weight.

The forward pass has brought about this reformation and has proven conclusively a great improvement to the game. When it is developed and its possibilities clearly defined, there is little question but that it will come to stay and benefit the game in general. At present a wall of disfavor comes from the east in regard to the

forward pass simply because they have not worked enough on it and what crude plays they had were frustrated by opponents early in the season and compelled them to fall back upon old style play and frown upon the forward pass.

Its possibilities in the east were demonstrated by the Indians, who defeated Pennsylvania, Harvard and Syracuse through the clever work of pulling off this play successfully. True, Princeton defeated the redskins on a field ankle deep in mud and where it was utterly impossible to get the best results from these plays.

In building a defense to stop the forward passes there is not enough stress laid on body-checking the man who is to receive the ball. It is a great deal more essential on a long pass to have the ball hit the ground instead of attempting to catch it or in anyway obstruct its progress, as it is taken back to the point where it was passed and then a penalty of fifteen yards is inflicted from that

point, which sets the ball back at least thirty yards. Coaches will in time instruct their men on this point and the forward pass will have to be more scientifically developed and not thrown in a haphazard way, trusting to luck for a favorable result.

The rules committee may make some changes in the play but it is hoped they will not expand it to such an extent that it will eventually drift into a basket-ball game. This is the thing that is feared by old football men, who do not want to see the game lose any of the characteristics which have made it the foremost game of the colleges.

Instead of changing the rules of the forward pass the committee would do well to legislate with a greater degree of discrepancy the rules governing the onside kick. This play is every bit as essential as the forward pass and with more reasonable restrictions a greater development of the play would surely take place. If the ball were put onside the moment it crosses the scrimmage line it

would rank in importance as high as the forward pass.

Not nearly as many 0 to 0 games have been played this year as last in the same length of time. Last season there were twenty-five scoreless battles up to the middle of November; this season there have been but ten. The conclusion is that a second season of the new rules has gone much further toward solving scoring methods. Last year all the talk was as to how ground could be gained. Not much was heard about the defense for the revised game, but this year coaches have been sitting up nights planning a defense for offensive plays made possible by the code adopted last year. A defense for open tactics has been as prominent in the season's developments as the problem of finding an attack was last year. It is just as hard to stop a team equipped with ground-gaining plays as it was before, and the games themselves have gained because the whole scope of play in fact is more spread out and varied.

During the two years that I have been connected with football at Nebraska, I have heard a great deal of "Nebraska spirit," and have actually seen some manifestation of it. There is evidence that it exists in the student body when assembled at a rally, but it doesn't show when the gate receipts are counted or when the squad turns out for preliminary practice. A close observation of the attendance at games this fall shows that the per cent of students present varies between five and twenty-five, i. e., between ten and twenty per cent of the paid admissions. In other words, from eighty to ninety per cent of the practical support of the team is due to the "Nebraska spirit" of the citizens of Lincoln. I do not mean to belittle the moral support given the team by the students, but moral support to be really effective must be accompanied by the presentation at the gate of a ticket for which cold cash has been paid. If the team could eat yells and bum songs the moral support would be all right, but they can't and the money support is a necessity.

The coaches, manager, hotel men, etc., all want money for their services, and unfortunately will not be satisfied with anything else. Football, as you all know, is an expensive game under any conditions, and like most everything else, the better it is the greater the cost.

The cost of admissions may have had something to do with the failure of students to attend the games. I admit that the prices asked were high, but they were based on past experience with "Nebraska spirit," and fear of a deficit. The five to twenty per cent who attend games will do so at any price; so, to meet expenses, we raised the price. If some one would only find a way to stir up the financial part will have to be cut latent "Nebraska spirit" that must be in every student and make him get out and try for the team or join the rooters all our athletic problems would be solved.

NEBRASKA SPIRIT

By JNO. G. WORKIZER, Captain 22nd Infantry, U. S. A.

Of course, there is a way out of the financial part of this difficulty. The alumni might form an athletic association with annual dues of two dollars or a fee of twenty-five dollars for life membership—the dues to be used for necessary expenses and the fees to go into a fund of which the interest only would be used. Students and members could then be admitted free. Other institutions have tried this with success.

The indications are that Nebraska is not quite ready for such a scheme. Witness. I had occasion recently to test the loyalty of alumni in the matter of subscriptions. Three hundred and fifty dollars were needed. I spent twenty-eight dollars for stamps and received sixteen dollars from four alumni. Another illustration. The necessity for an athletic field has been apparent for many years. A few years ago a present member of the Athletic Board, despairing of general action through "Nebraska spirit," started out alone to raise the money. After weeks of hard work, inspired by a prompt and enthusiastic subscription of twenty-five dollars from the editor of a local paper, he finally gave up the attempt. The money is still on hand in an envelope in the treasurer's safe, labeled "Athletic Field Fund." How many students or alumni were aware of such a fund?

Every drill day I see at least fifty

men who could play football and don't. There is nothing to prevent them except lack of "Nebraska spirit." They have the physique and the necessary credits, and have been offered the time. A couple of years ago there was a long-legged, skinny, awkward, overgrown boy named Fowler in the Battalion. He was, from the Nebraska point of view, everything but football material. He went East to an institution much criticised for its snobbery and was compelled by the spirit of that institution to get on some togs and see what he could do for it. He is now not only football material, but prospective "All American" material. He could have graduated from Nebraska forty times and never found out that he could play football. Many of you students could play good football if you would—if you had the true "Nebraska spirit." You can get the spirit by watching the football squad or any other squad that is representing the University. They have it. They are giving the best they have for the good of the student body and the University.

From the foregoing it may appear that financial success is the aim of football. True football, or sport of any kind, is at its best when there is absolutely no question of finances. In fact, if the game is to continue at all out. Faculties tolerate it, and will continue to do so until they become

so exasperated over the questions brought up by present methods that they will organize and abolish it. I can imagine the joy with which most members of the Swarthmore faculty received the news that they were to get a million dollars for abolishing intercollegiate football, and the dejection with which they refused the gift. They had to refuse because of the isolated position in which acceptance would have placed them and the consequent certainty of the desertion of the student body. Let the faculties once get together and the game is doomed—unless college spirit by voluntary contributions makes it independent of gate receipts.

As far as Nebraska students are concerned, football is over for this year. The season has been a glorious one. The spirit only has been mediocre. Try and get it in its full strength. If you weigh over a hundred pounds, go into semi-training at once. Get your credits in shape during the coming semester, and next fall be on hand when Eager first issues suits—and then stay with the game until the coach drives you off the field. If he does so, try for your class team, and failing that, come to me and I'll put you in the Hospital Corps and let you show your spirit in caring for the wounded.

Boost any athletic field project that comes along. If it's the wrong one, it will fail and then you can join a new one. If "Nebraska spirit" is what I think it is, the next few months will show good progress towards getting a field. If no progress is made, you don't deserve it, and in three years "hop-scotch" will be your game.

Where will next season's games be played?

Again Winner.

Nebraska won the Western intercollegiate cross-country run at Chicago Saturday morning. By winning this race, which is the third Nebraska has been victorious in, the Cornhuskers secured the cross-country cup.