

The Daily Nebraskan

THE PROPERTY OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.
Lincoln, Nebraska.

PUBLISHED EVERY DAY EXCEPT SUNDAY AND MONDAY
BY THE STUDENT PUB. BOARD.
Publication Office, 128 No. 14th St.

Editor-in-Chief.....M. A. Mills, '08
Managing Editor.....Clyde E. Elliott, '09
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Editorial and Business Office:
BASEMENT, ADMINISTRATION BLDG.
Postoffice, Station A, Lincoln, Neb.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$2.00 PER YEAR
Payable in Advance
Single Copies 5 Cents Each

Telephones: Bell A 1466, Auto 1888

INDIVIDUAL NOTICES will be charged for at the rate of 10 cents per insertion for every fifteen words or fraction thereof. Faculty notices and University bulletins will gladly be published free.

Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

CAPTAIN WELLER.

Captain John Weller, whose college football career closes with the St. Louis game Thanksgiving, has been one of the best and most efficient leaders of football men that has ever fought for the Scarlet and Cream. He has been a member of the Nebraska football team for four years and during that period has made an enviable reputation as a clean, strong player.

John Weller made the 'Varsity in 1904, playing halfback and tackle that year and the next. His work was of the high order in both these seasons. He did wonderful work in the Nebraska-Illinois game of 1904. Last season he held the halfback position on the team and made such a good showing that he was chosen to captain the 1907 eleven.

At the head of this season's championship team, Weller has won a place among Cornhusker football heroes equal to that of Bender and Benedict. His ability as a kicker won the Ames game and enabled Nebraska to make a fine showing in all the contests of the season.

Captain Weller is a clean moral man and a good student. Nebraska is proud of him and is sorry that his Cornhusker football career is at an end.

We hope that he may close his career in a blaze of glory in the St. Louis contest.

SUCCESS OF THE SEASON.

The University of Nebraska, the athletic board, the manager, the coach and the players are to be greatly congratulated on the success won this year. I especially rejoice in the moral successes achieved, the players' gentlemanliness, uprightness and clean play thruout the season. Such self-mastery is the best sort of victory, on the football field or anywhere.

The season's record has shown the extreme superiority of the new game over the old, of open play over massed plays. Reformed football has demonstrated itself to be an appropriate and invaluable college sport.

Reform might go a step further. Support should be given to the proposed change advocated by Dr. Lees in a recent newspaper item touching the over-valuation of goals from the field. I agree with him that "A field goal is not worth four points. It is over valued. I shall advocate scaling a field goal down to two points. A touchdown followed by a goal is worth at least twice as much as a drop or a place kick."

E. BENJ. ANDREWS.

Nebraska had an easy time with Doane Saturday, winning by the largest score of the season, 85 to 0.

THE SEASON AT NEBRASKA.

The season of 1907 will be a memorable one for the University of Nebraska in many ways. Winning from both Ames and Kansas, after being defeated at their hands in 1906 brought joy to the hearts of all loyal Nebraskans.

The game with Ames in 1907 will have a permanent place in Nebraska football history. As a spectacular and exciting contest, it was the equal of any game ever played on any grid-iron. Every one realized that a mis-play by one side or the other meant defeat or victory. Hope was dashed many times, only to be revived again. And this occurring so frequently, too, that during the entire seventy minutes of play the spectators were held spell-bound. The fighting spirit displayed by the wearers of the Scarlet and Cream was magnificent. When many a man in the stands had given up hope, and some (shame on them) expressed themselves so they could be heard on the field, the gallant lads in the thick of the fray fought desperately. They came back at their opponents like bull dogs, forcing them under the shadow of their own goal several times and finally landing the field goal that won Nebraska the game.

The Kansas game was marked by playing somewhat less fierce and determined, but by better team work, both on offense and defense, than that displayed in the Ames game. The men seemed less fearful of "opening up" when necessary, and as a result consternation reigned in the ranks of the Jayhawkers, when plays carefully planned to work an undoing were broken up without gains or, as was frequently the case, the ball was secured by a Nebraska man.

This article does not comprehend a complete review of the season, but a short account of the work of the Cornhuskers and their two most important contests. They fought gallantly in every game, and it can be truthfully said of them that there never was a more earnest, conscientious and faithful lot of workers on Nebraska or any other field.

It is this spirit of the men of the squad that has made possible the moulding of a winning team.

The schedule has been a hard one. The men were required to season themselves for a severe contest as early as the nineteenth of October, and to remain in condition until Thanksgiving. It is nearly always true that a team takes one or more slumps during the year, and with much less excuse for doing so than Nebraska had for doing so this season. Under severe conditions the daily routine becomes hard and irksome. But in the face of obstacles, the 1907 team has shown a willingness for hard work that has been an aid and inspiration.

One of the pleasing and encouraging features too, has been the attitude of the 'Varsity substitutes. They have shown that spirit which makes winning teams, that loyalty to the interests of the University which subordinates the interests of the individual to the interests of all. This is the spirit which will always make Nebraska a tough proposition for any opponent. It is the spirit which should develop and grow at this University, and become part and parcel of the creed of each student.

"KING" COLE.

The Cornhusker banquet will take place December 14th. The people in charge of this annual feast are planning to make it a big success. Be sure to attend.

THE NEW RULES

By F. D. CORNELL

Twenty years ago the game of football had little resemblance to the game that it afterwards became.

The ball was put in play by a kick or snapped back by the foot and "interference" was illegal, as a player was considered off side who was ahead of the man with the ball. On the other hand, tackling below the hips was also illegal, so that a runner had a better chance to dodge and elude a tackler than he now has.

The players were drilled mainly in falling on the ball, punting, drop-kicking and passing the ball, and the game was an open, spectacular contest of running, kicking and much passing of the ball, with a very small amount of line bucking.

About 1889 the rules were amended to permit a player to run ahead of the man carrying the ball and to block off tacklers with the body.

From this "interference" was developed and from that important change came mass plays, tandems, flying wedges and other formations in which solid masses of men carried around the field a ball—which might as well have been an imaginary one as far as its actual use was concerned. It came to the point where the ball was seldom punted and it was often considered a better policy to take the ball back twenty yards and retain it than to kick it and lose possession of it. Everything was sacrificed to retain possession of the ball.

Thus the game of football whose most expert players had been the men who were the speediest runners, the most efficient kickers and skillful dodgers, and where skill in some one department was the chief element of success, had changed into a sort of tug of war contest in which brute strength and weight became the main element of success.

The flying and V-shaped wedges and such plays were seen to be too severe on the players and were soon abolished, but the other features of the game were not changed. A touchdown was the main object to be attained and with but five yards to make in three trials, a well drilled team was pretty certain to cover a large amount of territory before compelled to surrender the ball, although proceeding only two yards at a time. As end runs often resulted in losses, teams preferred to charge the line again and again, where they were certain of a gain, however small it might be.

Hence it became incumbent on the college which desired a winning team to scour the country for big men, the bigger the better, for weight had become the one element most necessary.

Open field play disappeared and the game as a rule was a slow, cumbersome "push" game. Not only the result, but the score of two-thirds of the games could be predicted beforehand within a very few points. A majority of the games played by the great Michigan teams of 1902 and 1903 were won by scores of 60 and 70 to 0, while the losing teams had not a ghost of a show to even score. This was called sport.

Last year the rules committee made the most radical alterations in the rules which had yet been made in one year. The most important of these were extending to ten yards the five yards necessary to be gained in three

downs, permitting one forward pass to each scrimmage and enacting a rule which placed all players on side the instant a punt touched the ground. Formerly weight and team work were the main essentials. Now a good punter and drop kicker is of enormous importance; the ends and tackles must be agile and speedy, the backs fast and able to make long passes and every player skillful in all departments of the game; and yet there are still great possibilities in strong line smashing.

The ten-yard limit to be made in three downs has rendered it very difficult for a team to gain consistently by "straight football," so that a punt, forward pass or trick play usually follows two or three attempts at the line. Who will say that it is more interesting to watch several two hundred pound giants push each other around than to see a beautifully executed forward pass, a long twisting punt or swift end run?

In the Colorado-Nebraska game the ball was punted more than fifty times and there were at least a dozen well executed forward passes.

It is anybody's game now, instead of a foregone conclusion. In the East this year, Cornell beat Princeton, Princeton beat Carlsle, Carlsle beat Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania beat Penn State and Penn State beat Cornell.

With the elimination of weight as the principal essential in a player, there remains a much larger proportion of students who may become successful players in this noble game, and if the new rules have done nothing else, they have done their share towards abolishing the unseemly scramble for giants among the larger colleges, and consequently the tendency towards professionalism.

ATHLETIC FIELD QUESTION.

(Continued from Page 2.)

such an act is against the wishes of a large majority of the undergraduates and alumnae. It is true that our campus is crowded, but then nobody has a right to kill one department in order to give another a little more room. Especially is this true when the departments are of equal importance. It is not justice. If the Regents are not able to provide another place for athletics, they should leave all the departments a little cramped until they can get another athletic field.

The athletic department has been crowded and pinched for several years and our field has been smaller than regulation size for some time. We, realizing the crowded condition of our campus, have not complained and have gladly put up with things. But when they take our entire field and give it to another department without saying a word or without providing other grounds for us, it is time to object.

In a few weeks it will be time for baseball and track work. Where are we going to hold these spring sports? Will we have to suspend athletics? Something must be done soon in order to get grounds ready by spring.

Will the students raise their voices in protest against the destruction of our athletics or will they stand by, without saying a word, and witness the death of this important department of the University of Nebraska?