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## Nebraska's Position in the Missouri Valley Conference

By R. G. CLAPP

The Missouri Valley conference has now been in existence for a sufficient length of time to demonstrate the fact that it was founded upon a real demand for cleaner and more uniform regulations. While its original and primary object was higher athletic standards in the Missouri Valley, it has already served a number of other useful purposes. It has brought the seven large institutions of this region into close and friendly athletic relations—and this alone is of sufficient importance to justify its existence. It has greatly stimulated the interest in track athletics, baseball, and basketball, and has made possible championship series in all branches of college athletics.

Owing to the successful opposition of a few influential members of the athletic board, Nebraska did not join in the movement looking toward the formation of a Missouri Valley Intercollegiate conference, and only when forced, a year later, to show their hands by a formal invitation from the already organized conference, did they unwillingly vote to accept the invitation in order to avoid athletic ostracism. Whether or not this reluctance on the part of those in control of athletics at that time was prompted by a desire for lower athletic standards or not, it was not interpreted by our colleagues in the Missouri Valley and Chicago conferences, and has greatly handicapped the University of Nebraska in assuming her proper position in the athletic affairs of the Missouri Valley. Suspicion is very easily aroused in athletic circles and is correspondingly hard to overcome, but the unwarranted suspicion in regard to our attitude on athletic standards, is bound to gradually disappear under the present control.

### Like Western Conference.

There is every reason to believe that the Missouri Valley conference will exert just as strong an influence upon athletics in this section as the Chicago conference does in its sphere, and she will have one great advantage over her older sister, namely, the advantage of being able to profit by the older one's mistakes. Just how important a position Nebraska will be able to assume and hold in the Missouri Valley is now problematical. The real control of athletic leagues in any section of the country depends largely upon athletic supremacy. Among the big eastern colleges Yale, Harvard, and Princeton are practically supreme; Dartmouth is the strongest factor in the New England league, and Chicago

and Wisconsin now dominate the Chicago conference, which honor was divided with Michigan as long as she saw fit to remain in the organization. Nebraska by reason of her numbers and past athletic success, may be expected to make a strong bid for this position in the Missouri Valley.

In numbers, Missouri is Nebraska's nearest rival, but the lack of co-operation between the students and the athletic management has handicapped Missouri in putting out successful teams in the past; nevertheless this situation seems to have improved greatly during the past year, and much may be expected of our southern rival in the near future if this improvement continues.

In the past decade Nebraska has, unquestionably, developed stronger and more consistent football teams than any of her rivals in the Missouri

Valley, and based upon this standard Nebraska is athletically the best recognized institution of the Missouri Valley, but, unfortunately, it has been truly said that we have developed football alone—and it must be admitted at the present time that no other sport receives the real support of the student body—and, at times, we are skeptical about the general student interest even in football. But the student body is not primarily responsible for this situation. It can be traced directly to a lack of a suitable athletic field.

### Nebraska Stands Alone.

So far as the writer is aware—and he is familiar with the situation in the large majority of the more important universities and colleges of the country—there is not another im-

portant educational institution, east or west, without a fairly good and well equipped athletic field. With the abominable apology for a field, (the old Nebraska field), for many years, and the total lack of one at the present time, it is no wonder that interest in the national game is dead, and track athletics receive support only from the small per cent of students especially interested through participation themselves or through their friends' participation. That the regents have a real interest in the physical welfare of the student body and intend to do their part toward procuring a suitable athletic field, is shown in the most convincing way possible, namely, by the fact that they have invested all the funds, which are available for the purpose, in lots north of the old Nebraska field, with the ultimate object of procuring proper facilities for a stu-

dents' playground. Whether this object can be carried out in the near future apparently depends upon the liberality of the present Legislature. To those familiar with the situation it is evident that Nebraska will be weak in those sports for which a large amount of money is not available in fitting up grounds, etc., until a proper field is secured. The majority of the other institutions of the Missouri Valley have first-class athletic fields and should and doubtless will, in general, outclass us as long as the present situation continues.

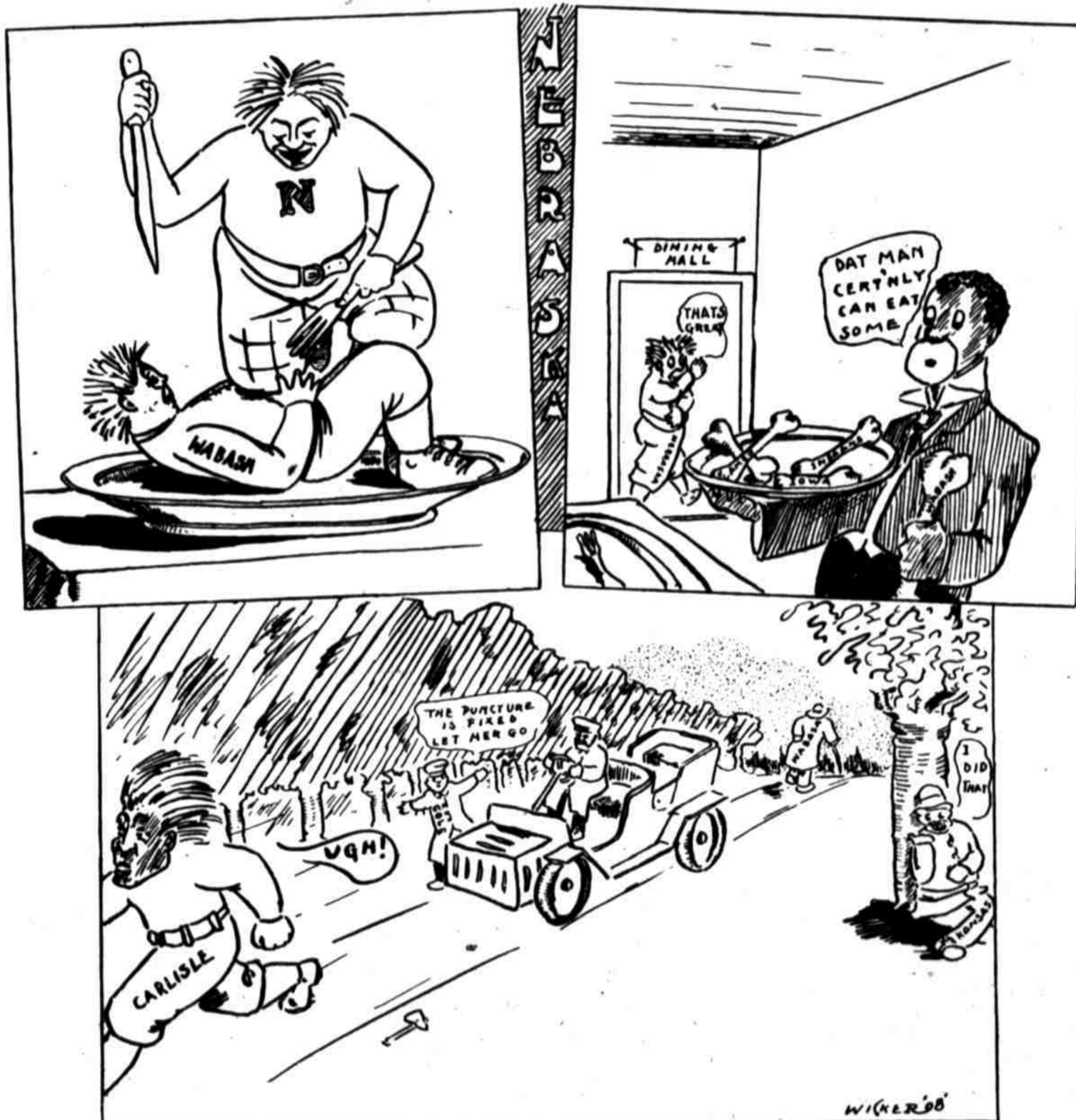
Another handicap, and one which will probably be permanent, is the lack of developed athletic material—owing to the very small number of large high schools to which we look for our students. Every other institution in the Missouri Valley is far more fortunate in this respect than Nebraska, and the matter narrows down to a contest between numbers and experience—and with the present lack of facilities for developing material the advantage is altogether with the institution drawing experienced material.

### An Excellent Plan.

The excellent plan adopted by the athletic board last year in regard to student tickets to all university athletic contests should, by the increased attendance which is bound to result, bring about a general interest in all athletics throughout the student body.

At present it is evident to the unbiased observer that Ames and Kansas surpass us in general college spirit; Iowa seems to be in our class, and Drake, Missouri, and Washington somewhat inferior in this respect.

Assuming that Nebraska deserves a place among the leaders of the Missouri Valley, it is clear that only one factor—namely, numbers—is settled in her favor and that a number of others need our careful attention if we are to compete favorably with our rivals in this organization. The more important factors may be summed up as follows: First, we must have better facilities, particularly a suitable athletic field. Second, athletics, other than football, must be encouraged to a much greater extent than they have been in the past. Third, we must have more assistance in developing the large amount of green material in all sports. Fourth, greater student interest and a better and a more general college spirit is necessary in all branches of athletics.



The Cornhuskers' Thanksgiving

### CORNHUSKER SQUAD.

The men who compose the first Cornhusker squad, with their weights, are as follows: Cooke, 139½; Bentley, 142; Minor, 150¾; S. Collins, 178; Chaloupka, 187½; Frum, 189; Sturteznegger, 155; Beltzer, 163; Ewing, 184; Harvey, 184; Bowers, 178½; Slaughter, 136¾; Elliott, 180½; Birkner, 170¾; Kroger, 170¾; Harte, 182; Temple, 175½; C. Collins, 160; F. Johnson, 165½. The average weight of these men is 161 pounds.

## SCHOOLS WHICH COMPOSE THE BIG SEVEN

Nebraska Ames Iowa Kansas  
Missouri Washington Drake

### BIG SEVEN STANDING.

	Won	Lost	Pct.
Kansas	2	0	100
Nebraska	2	1	66 2/3
Missouri	2	1	66 2/3
Ames	1	1	50
Drake	1	1	50
Iowa	0	3	0
Washington	0	2	0

### Games Today.

Kansas vs. Missouri.  
Ames vs. Drake.